

SKIP CyberHam

\$1.95

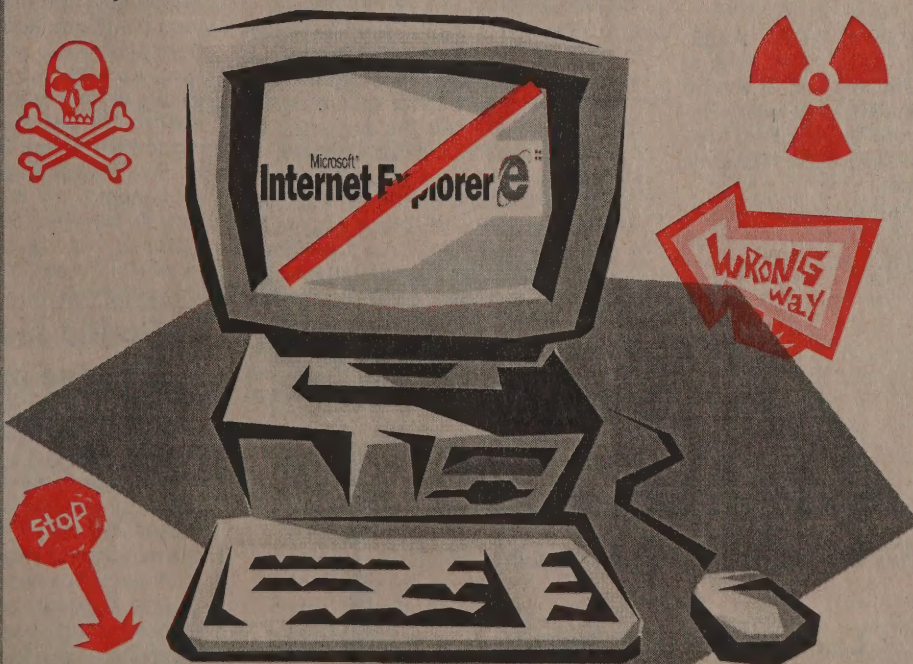
● November 1997

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet

Gates vs. Reno

Microsoft peeves Justice Department

NOTICE: You are not required to use Internet Explorer. You have the right to use any other browser. If you find the Microsoft icon offensive, you have the right to remove it from your desktop. - *US Dept. Justice, Janet Reno, Boss*



Page 4

<http://www.digital.net/skip/>

NEWSBRIEFS

Alinco Alive and Well

Azden, not Alinco: To alleviate some confusion in the Amateur Radio community, the company that recently pulled out of the US ham radio market was Azden, based in New York, not Alinco, which is on the West Coast. Alinco advises us that it's still very much in business.

ARRL Audio News Debuts October 17

The League will inaugurate ARRL Audio News, a weekly, Web-based audio news service, on October 17. Compiled from The ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News will include the week's top news from the world of Amateur Radio and the League. ARRL Audio News will be available in RealAudio format via the ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/>. Tucson Amateur Packet Radio—TAPR—has generously agreed to provide space on its Web server to permit the League to offer this service.

Senior Assistant Technical Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, who compiles and edits The ARRL Letter will be the regular on-air voice for ARRL Audio News. The service will be available free to anyone and may be retransmitted in whole or in part for bulletin purposes provided ARRL Audio News is credited as the source.

Each edition of ARRL Audio News will contain up to 10 minutes of timely Amateur Radio news. It will be available via the ARRLWeb every Friday by 9 PM Eastern Time. Dial-up telephone access to ARRL Audio News will be announced later.

For more information, contact Rick Lindquist, N1RL, e-mail n1rl@arrl.org; tel 860-594-0222.

ARRL seeks changes to CW waiver rules

The ARRL has asked the FCC to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met, prior to granting examination credit.

Under the League's proposed changes, a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test—with any and all necessary accommodations—before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing.

In its petition filed September 23, the League said the two "rather minor changes" are needed to restrict the waiver process to use by severely handicapped individuals "for whom the process was intended in the first place and who deserve the substantive accommodation." The League also said the changes would "stem abuses" of the waiver system without putting unreasonable burdens on examinees.

The CW waiver system has been in effect for seven years. The League says that experience has shown that many applicants without severe handicaps "have abused the process" by obtaining physicians' certifications of inability to pass the telegraphy examination. At present, 8 of those applying through the ARRL-VEC have requested a medical exemption from the higher-speed code requirement. Another large VEC reports similar experience. The League cited "a growing suspicion" in the ham community of anyone who has upgraded by using the waiver route. But the League said this is "completely un-

fair to those who require and deserve the exemption because they cannot be accommodated by procedural means."

FCC rules requires volunteer examiners to exercise broad latitude in administering CW exams to accommodate handicapped applicants. Measures include using a flashing light or vibrating surface for hearing-impaired applicants, pausing in sending after sentences, phrases, words or even characters to allow an examinee time to interpret, or even substituting a sending test for a receiving test. Instead, the League observed in its filing, there is "a tendency for applicants to seek exemptions instead" of accommodations.

The League said it believes the procedural changes alone will help to deter those who might abuse the process while still allowing exemptions to deserving applicants.

-ARRL Letter

DOVE returns to roost

DOVE-17 back on 2 meters: Operational software has again been successfully loaded into DOVE (DO-17) by the DOVE command team, and the satellite once more is operational on 2 meters (145.825 MHz AFSK-FM). Jim White, WD0E, started the software load in mid-September and reports that everything seems to be running okay. WD0E says it remains to be seen how long the intermittent watchdog timer in the satellite will allow this software to run. The S-band transmitter is on to facilitate testing of S-band equipment on the ground, particularly for those working toward Phase 3D Mode S capability. Power level on the 2 meter transmitter is about 1 W day and night. Telemetry is currently being sent every 60 seconds, but this could change due to power-management needs.—AMSAT News Service

Florida Judge throws out case against Ham

A County Court judge in Florida has dismissed a case against Joseph Osborn, KF4HXE, of Plantation, Florida, whose radio gear was confiscated by police under Florida's "scanner" law earlier this year. Osborn was involved in a minor accident on May 8, 1997, and subsequently cited by police in Davie, Florida, allegedly for breaking state law by having radios in his car capable of receiving police frequencies. Although the law specifically exempts hams, Davie Police impounded Osborn's equipment anyway because he could not produce his ham ticket—lost during a recent move. Even after Osborn showed Davie Police a copy of his li-

Brown Engineering Inc.

5501 S.W. 25th Court - Hollywood, Florida

Custom Metal Fabrication

Amateur ■ Commercial

e-mail: w4sn@aol.com

H.B. Fraser
President

W4SN

Telephone
954-989-4658

cense, authorities refused to drop the charges or to return his radios. Osborn later learned that police might have tampered with his equipment, possibly damaging it and voiding warranties.

Alexander L. Kaplan, KF4QBU, of Boca Raton—an ARRL Volunteer Counsel—represented Osborn. John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch, supplied information on federal pre-emption.

Broward County Court Judge J. Steven Shutter ordered the case dismissed late last month. Shutter said the state law does not require hams to have their licenses in their possession, as local police had asserted. The judge also cited federal pre-emption of prosecution of hams under state and local laws that make it illegal to possess scanning radios capable of receiving public safety or emergency frequencies. Florida's law bans such scanners in vehicles and in retail stores, but not in homes.

Shutter ordered Davie police to return Osborn's radio equipment within ten days of his ruling and to provide an affidavit specifying "who, what, when, where and how the radios were examined and what was done to them." Osborn has since recovered his radios from the Davie Police but not the required affidavit. Kaplan said this week that he's considering filing a contempt order. He also says he's begun civil proceedings against the Town of Davie. Meanwhile, an independent repair shop is evaluating Osborn's equipment to see if it was damaged.

State Department applies for US CEPT participation

The State Department has applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Tele-

communications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. The move, September 22, could eventually make it easier for US hams to operate temporarily in European countries that participate in CEPT. Holders of a CEPT license could operate in CEPT-participating countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

"No doubt there will be some give and take between the European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) and the Department of State over the details before the US is accepted as a participant, but an important milestone has been reached," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. The application consists of a four-page letter with voluminous attachments. Last year, the FCC had asked the State Department to apply for participation in the CEPT Agreement as a non-CEPT country.

The action follows in the wake of an earlier suggestion by the ARRL to the FCC that the US take advantage of the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a CEPT license that would be recognized by other participating administrations and valid for visits.

Last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US.

-ARRL Letter

Wall Street Journal article features MORSE code

Without looking at the "translations," most hams would have a hard time deciphering the Morse code represented in an article that appeared in the October 1 edition of prestigious Wall Street Journal. That's because most of the code shown is American Morse, not the International code hams use. The report, "The Internet Generation Taps into Morse Code," by Anna Wilde Mathews, focuses on a resurgence of interest in American Morse Code—the version Samuel F. B. Morse invented in the 19th century and used for many years by railroad and Western Union telegraphers.

The ARRL and ham radio also are mentioned, but Mathews' otherwise interesting article fails to distinguish between American Morse, the telegrapher's code, and International Morse, the radioman's code.

KV4FZ(Schoenbohm)RENEWAL APPEAL DENIED

The FCC has upheld the decision of an administrative law judge to not renew the operator and station licenses of Herbert L. Schoenbohm, KV4FZ, of Kingshill, Virgin Islands. Early last year, FCC Administrative Law Judge Edward Luton determined the Commission should not renew Schoenbohm's ham ticket, but Schoenbohm requested a review. The FCC denied Schoenbohm's application to review Luton's decision on September 30.

In late 1992, Schoenbohm, now 57, was found guilty in US District Court of using a "counterfeit access device" to make long-distance telephone calls. While his initial conviction did not specifically involve breaking FCC regulations, Schoenbohm eventually ran directly afoul of the Commission, which said his conviction "is relevant to evaluating the likelihood that he will comply" with the FCC's Amateur Radio rules.

In early 1994, the FCC designated his application to renew his ham radio license for a hearing, but extended the expiration date of the license until the matter could be settled. A hearing was held in August 1995.

Luton had concluded last January that Schoenbohm's 1992 felony conviction plus his subsequent "knowing violation" of the FCC's ex parte rules "provides further evidence that the Commission will not be able to rely on him to be truthful or to comply" with FCC rules and policies. Schoenbohm was accused of improperly encouraging other people to intervene on his behalf with the FCC and of using ham radio to do so in at least one instance. The ex parte rules prohibit anyone in Schoenbohm's situation from directly soliciting such political intervention.

FCC documents show that Schoenbohm fraudulently obtained long-distance telephone service by using illicitly obtained telephone access codes. Schoenbohm, then the communications chief for the Virgin Islands Police Department, was sentenced to two months in prison (later suspended) and two years probation and was fined \$5000. He lost his job as a result of his conviction.

FCC documents also show KV4FZ had a distinguished record of Amateur Radio public-service and had helped provide emergency communication in several hurricanes. However, the decision's Conclusions of Law found that, at the 1995 hearing, Schoenbohm mischaracterized the facts concerning

SKIP ON TAPE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

SKIP is put on tape every month for the benefit of the blind or visually impaired. These tapes are available if requested and postage is paid both ways. If you are interested in this valuable service, contact Ms. Desaree Stewart, Library for the Blind, 420 Platt Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Phone 1-800-226-6075.

Continued on page 5

From the Editor

Gates vs. Reno

"Microsoft is unlawfully taking advantage of its Windows monopoly to protect and extend that monopoly and to undermine consumer choice. The Department of Justice will not tolerate that kind of conduct." so sayeth Janet Reno on October 20th.

The announcement struck me with mixed feelings, some good, some bad. The more I read that Windows98 was structured around the Internet Explorer, the more uneasy I became. I have tried the Explorer and never liked it. I had the impression that it was designed to be operated by a 3-year old (which is not all bad) and found too many ways to connect to microsoft.com. Even the graphics of the browser made me feel like I was using Prodigy or AOL. It didn't help that I had used Netscape since day one.

Somehow, I don't look forward to a redesigned Windows95 that will look like and act like the Internet Explorer while taking me by the hand to lead me to all things Microsoft.

My dislike for Internet Explorer was compounded by its uninvited appearance at every turn in the road as I operated Windows95. Despite efforts to wipe out all traces of the Internet Explorer, it still manages to make its presence known. Just the other day, I clicked on a .gif file to see what it was and -bingo- up comes the Internet Explorer as the viewer. I normally use Quick View Plus but a lapse in memory led me to discover that many files will lead you to the IE. I do keep a copy of the browser on the computer for reference in case I have to answer a question from a reader.

Then, there was news of the upcoming Windows98 bundled with Internet Explorer. What began as a rumor has seemed to become a fact: if one installs the explorer it destroys the operation of other browsers and short of formatting your hard disk, it's nearly impossible to remove the remnants of the Microsoft browser that corrupts other browsers. Any user who installs the Windows98 operating system may be misled by the bonus browser that comes with the OS and suffer unwarranted damages that may require intervention of a technician to repair.

On the other hand, one had to laugh as Reno lets the American public know that one is not required to use Internet Explorer, they can use other browsers and should be entitled to receive instructions on how to remove the icon from the desktop.

Now I ask you - how many individuals who have the most minimal intelligence required to operate a computer (or even a calculator for that matter) are under the impression that one is required to use a specific browser. If the user has progressed beyond the basics of inserting a floppy or CD in the computer, and has made the quantum leap to connect to the Internet, chances are the user has a clue as to his "rights" as a computer user. Reno seems to have the impression that computer users must be advised of their "government-granted" rights. Perhaps all these years, I have overestimated the intelligence of our computer community.

Instructions to remove the icon from the desktop! Get real! If I didn't know better, I would suspect that the icon has proved to be an indestructible and irritating object on Reno's desktop. Perhaps Reno has not advanced as far as the right-click button (maybe because of her political persuasion), or maybe trembles at the thought of deleting the icon fearing that an angered Bill Gates might buy out the government and fire her.

Then there is the price of success. It appears that entrepreneurship has its limitations. The government seems to say, "We wish you all the success in the world...but not too much." How well I remember how the dominance of IBM was systematically disassembled by the government.

Whether one likes Microsoft or not, Gates, to his credit, almost single-handedly reinvented the world of computers. But, with the world's dependency on computer technology, almost all of which has a degree of dependence on Microsoft, one must consider the potential for all sorts of manipulation (some evil). To think that the power to control the world might fall in "Darth" Gates' lap one day is no longer a far-fetched plot for a Hollywood science fiction movie.

So we've traveled through the saga of Little Boy Bill meets Jumbo Janet, the big boss of Justice who threatens Billy with a million dollar a day fine unless he writes some elaborate instructions on how to get that damn icon off her desktop. Sort of reminds me of Shakespeare's Macbeth, "Out, damned icon! out, I say!" Er, somethin' like that.



SKIP

Gerry Wentz, KC4EHT Editor

Contributing Editors

Bill Britton, KB4VOL *Data*
8703 S.E. Jardin St
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

Frank Obenauf, W2IAJ *QCWA*
1582 Pennwood Cir. N.
Clearwater, FL 34616-1713

Don Browne, KQ4YM *Knights*
4805 E. Sunflower Cir.
Labelle, FL 33935-5520

Lorraine S. Matthew, AAA9PR *Army MARS*
P.O. Box 3325
Kingman, AZ 86402-3325

Carl Houston, Jr., AFF2P, *AF Mars*
4911 Helene Road
Memphis, TN 38117-6735

Steve Iezzi, KT4FY *Computers*
3530 Serenity Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32935

Gerry Wentz *Publisher*

The entire contents of SKIP Magazine are copyrighted by Florida Skip, Inc. Items and stories in this magazine may be quoted in other publications with appropriate credit lines and dates.

The Publisher of this magazine does not assume the responsibility of statements made by advertisers. All signed and attributed articles published in the magazine represent the opinions of the writer and/or the source and not those of SKIP.

Images copyright, New Vision Technologies Inc.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS. The 10th of the month previous to date of publication at:

672 Indian River Drive
Melbourne FL 32935

The SKIP is published monthly. One-year subscription is \$12. Printed in U.S.A.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to FLORIDA SKIP, 672 Indian River Drive, Melbourne, FL 32935

More Microsoft Misery

Contempt for Contemptible Microsoft

WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A., 1997 OCT 20 (NB) — By Bob Woods. The US Department of Justice said it asked a federal court to hold Microsoft Corp. [NASDAQ:MSFT] in contempt for allegedly violating a 1995 court order regarding the licensing and distribution of the software giant's Internet Explorer World Wide Web browser. US Attorney General Janet Reno and Justice Department antitrust head Joel Klein made the announcement during a news conference.

The US government is seeking a \$1 million a day fine for each day Microsoft continues its practice, Reno said.

Specifically, Reno said Microsoft is violating terms of the court order by requiring personal computer manufacturers that license and distribute Windows 95 to equip their PCs with Internet Explorer.

Reno said the Justice Department wants to require Microsoft to stop its practice, and to notify PC users who have Windows 95 that they do not need to use just Internet Explorer for their Web surfing, among other things.

The word "monopoly" was used several times by both Reno and Klein, Newsbytes notes. Reno said, "Microsoft is unlawfully taking advantage of its Windows monopoly to protect and extend that monopoly."

The Justice Department's action could delay the release of Microsoft's upcoming Windows 98 operating system, experts are quoted as saying.

Reno missed this one. AN IE4 BUG

TOKYO, JAPAN, 1997 OCT 20 (NB) — By Martyn Williams. A day after a German computer magazine reported a security flaw in Microsoft's latest Web browser, Internet Explorer 4.0, the Redmond, Washington, based software maker released a patch to protect users from the problem. The bug allows intruders to gain access to text, image and HTML files on the user's hard disk, said Germany's Computer Technik magazine.

The bug was found by Ralf Hueskes, a consultant for Jabadoo Communications, who tested the software for the magazine. He discovered that, by writing specially constructed Dynamic HTML pages, it is possible for the page writer to access files on the user's hard disk.

The problem was explained by Hueskes in a press release from his company, "The spy pages make use of JScript. If a user accesses a page or receives an e-mail containing this code, infiltration begins."

The code needed to access a file on your machine is hidden inside an IFRAME, sized to just one pixel by one pixel so it's almost invisible on the page. The code loads a Jscript program which access the file and loads it into the frame. The information can then be read using Dynamic HTML and sent, hidden in a URL, to any Web server in the Internet, according to Hueskes.

To access a file, the Web page designer must know the file name and directory path, which means that any file stored in a standard location is vulnerable but any stored in non-standard locations are much more difficult to access.

After notified of the problem by Hueskes, Microsoft worked on a patch and released it on Friday. The software is now available online at <http://www.microsoft.com/ie/security/freiburg.htm>. Hueskes' press release is available at http://www.jabadoo.de/press/ie4_us_old.html and Computer Technik's article on the problem can be found at <http://www.heise.de/newsticker/data/jk-16.10.97-000/>.

Continued from page 3

his conviction in "a conscious effort to influence and mislead the trier of fact" and that his "altered testimony about the facts of his conviction was deliberately false." Luton reached a similar conclusion with regard to Schoenbohm's claims that his on-air efforts to get around the ex parte rules were innocent attempts to explain those rules, contained in Section 1.1210.—FCC

(Schoenbohm has not exhausted his avenues of appeal. He can now apply to the Court of Appeals and may remain on the air pending the outcome of his court appeal. The KV4FZ call sign remains in the FCC database, which lists a July 1996 expiration date.—Ed)

ARRL announces 75th Anniversary Edition of Handbook

The 1998 edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs is out and at a new, lower price. This marks the 75th edition of this standard electronics reference book, which will sell for \$32. Over 6 million copies have been sold since it was first published in the 1920s. Radio amateurs, electronic experimenters, engineers and technicians all have reserved a prominent place on their bookshelves for this essential electronics reference.

And the Handbook will continue to be available for years to come. Contrary to information circulated in Great Britain and elsewhere, the ARRL plans to continue the printed edition of the ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs. A report in the November issue of Practical Wireless, a British magazine, erroneously stated that the League planned to discontinue the printed Handbook in favor of the CD-ROM edition. "The paper Handbook remains our flagship technical publication, and we do not see that changing any time soon," ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, emphasized in a letter to Rob Mannion, G3XFD, the editor of Practical Wireless.

The 1998 Handbook provides 1200 pages of radio communication and electronics information—both theoretical and practical. A wide variety of construction projects and examples illustrate basic and advanced theory, from dc to microwaves. Schematics and photos help clarify principles, and several hundred tables provide valuable reference data. The use of a PC for both design and hardware control is integrated into many of the topics covered.

New projects in this edition include a high power, high efficiency antenna tuner, a new superregenerative VHF receiver that automatically receives several different types of modulation, and an integrated L-band antenna and amplifier for satellite use.

The book's 30 chapters cover ac/dc theory and components, analog and digital signal theory, test equipment and techniques, and other topics. Later chapters are devoted to power supplies, modulation, transmitting and receiving equipment, antennas, propagation and station setup. Chapters on components, construction, safety and electromagnetic interference cover the hobby's practical aspects.

To help make the book reader-friendly, each chapter has a printed thumb tab and a mini-table of contents opposite the first page of most chapters.

Instead of bundling software with the handbook, all programs associated with some projects will be available free of additional charge from the ARRLWeb and the Hiram Bulletin Board (860-594-0306). All the software runs under Windows, and most works under DOS as well.

The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs is item number 1786. It's available from Amateur Radio dealers or ARRL Publication Sales, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111-1494; tel (toll-free) 888-277-5289 or fax 860-594-0303. You can also order publications via the Internet at <http://www.arrl.org/>. When ordering from ARRL, include \$6 for UPS shipping.

NEWSBRIEFS

Yahoo! Another Profitable Quarter!

Yahoo reported higher revenues and a net income for its third quarter, and said its traffic grew from a daily average of 38 million page views to 50 million views.

Calif. Gov't Phone Network To Go Private

They've been ever more familiar-seeming in the morning headlines in recent years — This Place Privatizing Telephones, or That Place Ending Government Phone Monopoly. Now the worldwide trend has finally arrived in ... California? That's right. The state's huge CALNET in-house government phone network is going to be farmed out to private carriers.

Internet Software/Services Market To Top \$3 Billion

That's what a new study from The Radicati Group says. The survey firm also said Netscape currently leads the Internet browser market with a 65% market share. But Microsoft Internet Explorer is beginning to close the gap, the company said.

Symantec Wins Injunction, McAfee Claims Win

Let's say the judge turns down your motion to kill a case, and says your opponent has "a likelihood of success on the merits" and grants an injunction against you — who won? "We did!" say both McAfee and Symantec. Now try this: After months of legal maneuvering, the court only tells your opponent not to ship program code they haven't shipped for months and then makes you pony up a \$25,000 bond in case the order is unfair — who won? "We did!" say both Symantec and McAfee. An executive from each company chatted with Newsbytes late Wednesday afternoon about the judge's latest rulings in the continuing legal saga of Symantec vs. McAfee. We'll have a follow up on yesterday's story, which is at: <http://www.newsbytes.com/pubNews/97/101333.html>.

Access The Net Over Power Lines?

Forget about the phone company, says Nortel and Norweb Communications. The two companies said they have developed new technology that can transmit data at speeds of more than one megabit per second (Mbps) over ordinary power lines. A little more work will be needed to make it economical in North America and some other markets, though. <http://www.newsbytes.com/pubNews/97/101324.html>

FCC Nominees Closer To Confirmation

US Federal Communications Commission Chairman-elect William Kennard and three people members waiting to be confirmed to the FCC have been okayed by a US Senate committee. The only hurdles left are a full Senate vote, and a possible holdup by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina). The full Senate is expected to vote later this week. <http://www.newsbytes.com/pubNews/97/101323.html>

When in doubt - READ THE MANUAL

NOVATO, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1997 OCT 21 (NB) — By Bill Pietrucha. Contrary to common opinion, reading the manual to solve computer problems or to get on the Internet isn't the last step Americans take, it's calling customer service. According to a survey recently conducted by Inference Corp. [NASDAQ:INFR], more than 70 percent of Americans who currently use the Internet take the do-it-yourself approach to resolve customer service problems.

Some 71.9 percent of the respondents were almost evenly split as to whether they would be "very interested" or "somewhat interested" in learning to use the Internet to get answers to customer problems. The "very interested" group barely edged out the "somewhat interested" population, 36 percent to 35.9 percent, while 12.5 percent said they were

"not very interested," and 12.9 percent "were not at all interested."

The survey, conducted by researchers from the independent research firm of Bruskin/Golding for Inference Corp., is claimed to have a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percent.

The survey results, Inference Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter R. Tierney said, indicate "a strong potential for acceptance of Web-based self-service systems that allow customers to help themselves at their convenience, a trend reinforced by the growth of bank ATMs (automated teller machines)."

With the size of customer bases growing, and products becoming more complex, Tierney said there is an increasing demand for getting accurate, consistent answers.

"The World Wide Web enables real-time customer service," he said, "so people can help themselves without the long delays associated with telephone support."

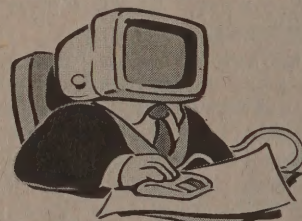
Tierney said that, according to a recent Dataquest report, software vendors will handle nearly 30 percent of all electronic support via the Internet in 1998, growing to almost 60 percent by the year 2000.

The survey also found that, when learning to use any new product, 95 percent of Americans prefer to go it alone, either by reading the manual or just figuring it out on their own.

Some 75.8 percent, surprisingly, said they read the instruction manual, while only 19.5 percent said they figure it out by themselves. Another 1.7 percent said they ask a friend to help. Only 1.0 percent said they call the salesperson from whom they bought the appliance, and a mere 0.4 percent said they call the manufacturer.

"In today's busy times, more and more people prefer to be self-sufficient, taking customer service into their own hands to get what they need conveniently and quickly," Tierney said.

Inference Corp. is located at <http://www.inference.com> on the World Wide Web.



PC World Online Survey

PC World Online (<http://www.pcworld.com>) recently surveyed 6800 computer users as to the extent they use their computers for home or at the workplace. The following are the results of the survey:

- 99.5% use some type of PC at home - The leading activity for home-based computers is for leisure-related computing (e.g. to surf the Web or log on to an online service) — 91.2%
- The average user has access to 2.1 PCs at home
- 40.3% of users operate some kind of a home-based business
- 18.5 hours a week are spent (on average) computing at home
- 94.8% give advice to others about home computer-related purchases

For a complete report of the results of the survey on home based computing, please visit:

<http://www.pcworld.com/interactive/talkback/homebasedresults.html>

Microsoft® Internet Explorer[®]

Internet Explorer 4.0 My Impressions

I downloaded the release copy of Internet Explorer 4.0 lately. Here is my first impressions.

All reviews are predicated on the platform that the reviewer uses. First, let's talk about my platform.

This computer is running a Tyan Tomcat IIID dual Pentium motherboard with two Pentium 133 processors. There is 64 megabytes of RAM, 1 Gigabyte of Fast SCSI 2 Hard Drive. The controller is a Tekram Ultra SCSI card based on the Symbios Logic controller chip. I have a 4X SCSI CD-ROM drive, a Logitech 3 button mouse and a pair of floppy drives. The video card is a Stealth 3D with 2 Meg of EDO RAM. I am connected to the Internet through an Intel Pro100B auto-sensing PCI Ethernet card. My network bandwidth is 10 megabits half-duplex. The network has about fifty other computers running 10BaseT. The file server is another dual Pentium 133 running Windows NT 3.51. The domain server is a Sparc 2 running Solaris. The whole collection is connected to the Internet through an Ascend ISDN modem at 64 Kbits per second.

I consider this setup as a high end system. The components and network performance is generally better than most people have in their personal system. For the purpose of this review, I consider this system adequate for evaluating a web browser.

To get Internet Explorer 4, you can either download from the web or send away to Microsoft (for a nominal fee) for the CD. If you check around at the stores, you should be able to buy a copy there as well. Microsoft is providing IE 4 free of charge but if you want the CD, you have to at least pay for the disk and packaging. The download process is in two steps. First, you must download the setup application. Once achieved, you run the setup and it will complete the downloading and installation of the software. The combined size IE 4 is over 22 Megabytes. At 64 Kbits per second, it took a little over an hour to get everything. If you have a slow modem, you can try running overnight or just settle for snagging the CD. I got my copy from the Australian site as it was the least busy. The site providers are permitted to customize the download of IE 4 so mine included lots of Australian web sites some references to the provider. A jaunt through the registry let me remove most of the customized portions but this operation is delicate so be careful.

Installation was generally trouble free. I had trouble transferring my old E-mail messages from Internet Mail, the mail client from IE 3. The difference stemmed from a change in how the new mail client named its mail files. Internet Mail named the mail file the same as the mailbox folder. The new client names the folder in numerical order (like folder1.mbx). I solved the problem by creating a new folder in Outlook Express and renaming my old mail folder to replace the numbered file. Make sure that you make a back up of your old mail files and your "favorites" folder.

My initial installation included everything that came with the package. IE 4 includes sound, pictures, video and even web authoring tools. It's a very comprehensive package so make sure you have about 100 megabytes of free hard drive space. I activated the active desktop utility update as well. The active desktop is a refresher for the basic "Windows 95" Start Menu concept. The active desktop adds some hot button launching capability to the Start Menu. It also offers a Browser "look and feel" mode for your explorer. The new desktop actively highlights icons and provides for the "single click" selection that is common to a web browser.

The IE 4 browser adds some nice features over version 3. The history folder is now integrated into the tools bar. If you select "History", a nice hierarchical menu appears with several days of your past browsing activity. You can expand and collapse by day and by site. This is a real time saver if you find yourself wanting to return somewhere and you didn't save the site in your favorites folder.

IE 4 adds the concept of "Channels" to your browser. Channels are similar to television stations in that information is sent to you. Subscriptions to "Channels" are available from authorized sites. If you're interested in the latest news or stock information, this will probably appeal to you. Some of the subscriptions are free (and include typical web advertising) and some, like stock tracking charge a monthly fee.

IE 4 has more security in the configuration but adds additional functionality to the JAVA and Active X scripting. The additional capability may provide JAVA access to your hard drive or network data. This is the classic trade of functionality for security. I avoid sites that would more than likely contain viruses or damaging applets. Let your conscience be your guide.

The new mail client is called Outlook Express. It's here that Microsoft has made the most improvement. Outlook Express adds lots more functionality including support for multiple accounts, a much better "Inbox Assistant" to automatically react to received mail, and more viewing options. Outlook Express also combines the Usenet viewer with e-mail. This make sense to me as Usenet (more commonly called "Newsgroups") is actually a collection of e-mail messages posted to a group rather than an individual. Usenet message can be downloaded and perused at your leisure. Significant messages can be copied and pasted to one of your own mail folders.

Outlook Express includes some templates for fancy e-mail messages. There is support for HTML content in your e-mail and this includes pictures and graphics. The fancy mail is pretty but it adds quite a bit more bandwidth. I would certainly not recommend posting this stuff to a newsgroup. You will definitely be on the receiving end of some Flame mail.

I initially ran IE 4 on my system with 32 megabytes of RAM. That was a mistake. With the higher requirements of NT the typical memory utilization jumped to over 40 megabytes and the disk swapping began. Windows 95 is not as particular as NT so I suspect that 32 megabytes is enough but I would not recommend a system with less. I bumped the memory up to 64 megabytes and now all is well. The upgrade cost me less than \$100 as memory is again at an all time low.

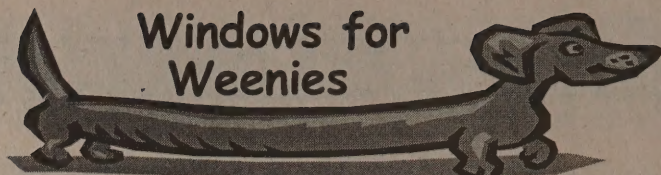
I ran the active desktop for about a week. It was slick but after the third crash, I opted to remove it from my system. This was easy as it's an option in the IE 4 un-installer. The added benefits of the active desktop were not worth the hit in performance and the potential for lost data.

On the plus side, the random application crash of IE 3 with the Adobe Acrobat reader has been fixed with IE 4. If you frequently snag documents from the web in Acrobat format, IE 4 is definitely more reliable.

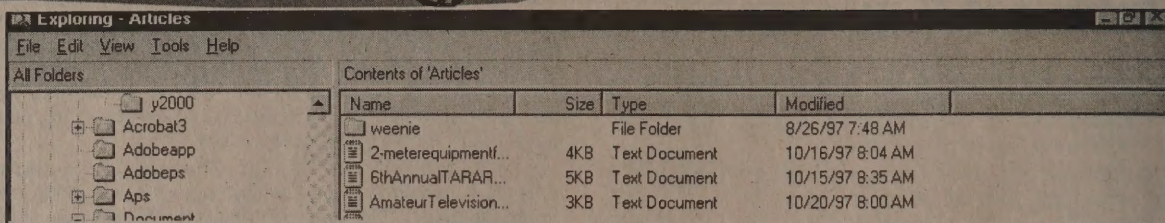
In summary, the IE 4 package is the best deal going in free software. It adds a nice e-mail and news reader client, views the most feature rich pages and runs reliably on my system. The extra memory required has never been more affordable and I appreciate the extra touches.

Check it out.

73's
Steve



Windows for Weenies

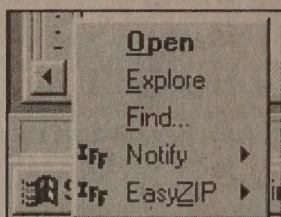


Wonderful World of Windows Explorer

Some real basics

If you've not become dependent on the Windows Explorer to root around in your computer, I would be surprised. But, if you haven't discovered all the slick things you can do in the Explorer, I would NOT be surprised. I don't think I've found them all or used many of the features often enough to form a useful habit.

I hope everyone knows how to have easy access to the Explorer. If you right-click on the start button and point to "Explore" you'll enter the explorer. I also installed it on the Start Bar in case I hit the left-click. The two panel explorer window is now available.



On the left, one finds the directory tree with all of the folders or directories. Clicking on any plus signs you see, expands that directory allowing you to view subdirectories. When you click on a specific directory, you will see a listing of everything contained in the directory listed in the Right window. You'll also note that the folder shows as an open folder in the left pane. This is handy when you are scrolling around and forget which directory you had open. Keep scrolling around while watching the left pane for an open folder.

For the mouse-impaired, one can also wander around the explorer using the arrow keys, PgUp, PgDn, End, Home and Backspace Keys. Probably a bunch of others I missed. Be aware to highlight a file or directory in the pane in which you wish to wander.

If your left or right pane (usually the left) is too narrow and you always have to mess with the scroll bar, make the window a little bigger by pointing precisely at the center dividing line and you'll see a vertical double line with left and right pointing arrows. Hold down your left mouse button and move the divider to a point that allows you to see both panes comfortably.

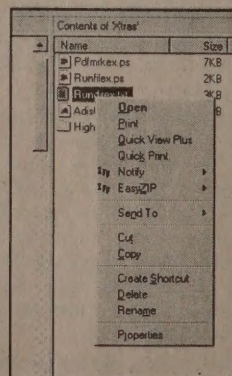
An oftimes overlooked feature of the explorer are the four headings listed at the top of the right pane; Name, Size, Type, and Modified. Them ain't just column names - they're task bars and can be quite useful. If you click on any of them, it sorts the files, according to the header, in ascending or descending order. Suppose you have one of those files that have a filename that is at least a mile and a half long and you can't read the whole thing. Point your mouse and click precisely at the end of the name bar and move it as far as necessary to read your file name. You can do that for any of the columns.

A matter of concern to many is the size of a directory. Suppose you have a directory with several sub directories and you wish to save the directory to a floppy. If you click on

the directory, you take a look at the bottom of the explorer window and you see X number of bytes (Disk free space: XXGB). You will be unpleasantly surprised if you rely on the number to fit on a floppy. The first number indicates the size of that particular folder you opened - NOT the entire directory. In order to find the directory size, first open the directory folder by clicking on it then right click the mouse on the folder, go to Properties and click. Or, with the directory folder open, go up to File>Properties. A window will appear giving you the directory file properties like the following: 8.76MB - Contains 53 Files, 10 folders. That is everything accounted for in the directory.

If you have clicked to a directory or folder that shows all sorts of files in your right pane, there are all sorts of operations that can be performed. If you double click on a text file, depending on how your (Open With) is set up (usually wordpad), a window will open showing the file. If you double click a file that is not registered, a window will open asking which program you wish to use to open the file. For example, if you tried to open a .jpg file and you never told windows what to do with jpg files, you must select a program that would accommodate jpg files. For me, I specify Adobe Photoshop. Another way to take a peek at a file is to right click on the file and select Microsoft's Quick View. Unfortunately, the Quick View supplied with Windows95 is severely limited. I recommend that one invests in Quick View Plus by INSO Corporation and the right click gives you access to nearly 300 different file types. In over a year, I think I might have had a half dozen files it couldn't read. One today as a matter-of-fact (.cph file).

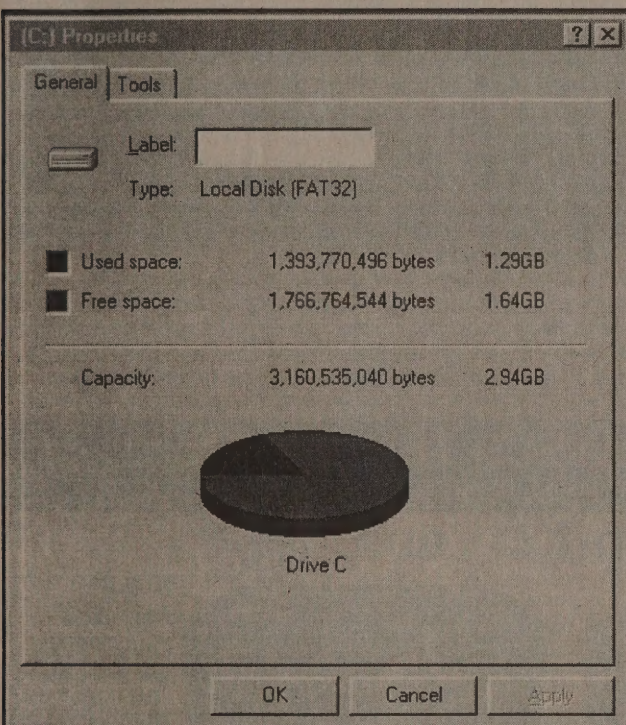
By highlighting a file and right-clicking your mouse, you will be presented a menu of operations that can be executed (see below). There is not enough space to go into all



of the functions this month but I will point out the handy Print function. If you have a directory containing a Read Me and need a reference printout of the file, right click on the file and select Print. Voila! Beats having to activate your word processor, then fish around for the file, and finally select File>Print. But keep in mind, this applies to text files. If a file is saved in a specific word processor format (i.e. WD2, SAM), you'll have to double click on the filename and it should bring up the file in its associated word processor. Then go through the normal print procedure. The "right-click-Print" function is useful for text -type files such as Read.me files etc.

Scoping out your Disk

You have a couple super-duper 3D games and the latest/greatest Microsoft Flight Simulator not to mention many megabytes of unused junk you downloaded from the Internet. Aha! The new release of the Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 would complement your computer system quite nicely. "What's that," you say "22 mega whats?" Do you have enough hard disk space to install it? Well, you don't have to exercise your expertise with powers of 10 or try to remember how many zeros in a mega or giga, you can get the whole skinny along with a nice pie chart that shows "used space" versus "free space".



Wow! Nice graphic. You'd be surprised how many people are unaware that one can get a neat graphical representation of hard disk space utilization. Since we just spent some time in the Windows Explorer, let's find it there. Start up the explorer and scroll up to C:\, highlighting it. Don't forget, you'll be grievously misled if you read the numbers at the bottom of the screen. Right click and go to Properties and there it is. Also, after you highlight C:\, go up and click on File then Properties.

The other method is from the desktop, click on My Computer, then right click on [C:] and go to Properties. Also, after highlighting [C:], go up to File then Properties.

The dark area in the graphic shows the Used Space and on your screen will probably be blue. The light area is Free Space and probably will show as pinkish red. It's a lot easier to look at the pie chart than to do some mental gyrations with numbers. Also, if you see very little or no red pie, you're in a heap of trouble buddy.

Late News Items

Pentagon Computers Invaded 250 Times

A US intelligence official is quoted as saying that Pentagon computer systems were broken into more than 250 times last year. What's more — the number of projected break-ins is expected to double this year, the source is quoted as saying.

US Infrastructure Vulnerable To Computer Attack - Commission

A presidential commission this week cautioned that that America's infrastructure is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the risk of computer attack. "In cyberspace, national borders are no longer relevant," the commission said. "Electrons don't stop to show passports."

Online Subscribers Numbers Decline!

Here's a different study for ya — new numbers out today show a three percent fall in online and Internet access subscribers. Sizable departures from Compuserve and Delphi Internet, combined with the "summer doldrums," are blamed for the decline.



10Mil Kids On The Net

A different report out today shows that almost 10 million children are using the Internet (as of the second quarter of 1997). In fact, the study said children comprise one of the fastest growing segments of new Internet users.

Copyright Infringement Suit Filed

The Software Publishers Association (SPA) said it filed a lawsuit against two individuals for software copyright infringement. The suit alleges that the individuals were uploading copyrighted material to the Internet.

The World's largest Ham Dealer is located right here in Florida!

AMATEUR ELECTRONIC SUPPLY®

ORLANDO: 621 Commonwealth Avenue

tel: 407-894-3238 • toll free: 1-800-327-1917

fax: 407-894-7553 • e-mail: orlando@aesham.com

Exports — se habla Español 407-898-1166

Service to Radio Amateurs for over 40 years!

Dealer for...

ALINCO • AZDEN • ICOM • KENWOOD • SGC • STANDARD • YAESU

...and other major Ham Equipment, Antennas & Accessories.

Other locations...

MILWAUKEE, WI • WICKLIFFE, OH • LAS VEGAS, NV

1-800-558-0411

1-800-321-3594

1-800-634-6227

US Infrastructure Vulnerable To Computer Attack



WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A., 1997 OCT 24 (NB) — REPEAT/By Bill Pietrucha. Since electrons "don't stop to show passports," a presidential commission this week cautioned that that

America's infrastructure is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the risk of computer attack.

While in the past America has been protected from hostile attacks on its infrastructure "by broad oceans and friendly neighbors," the commission noted in a report to the White House that the evolution of cyber threats has dramatically changed the situation.

"In cyberspace, national borders are no longer relevant," the commission said. "Electrons don't stop to show passports."

The classified report, released to the White House this past Monday by the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection, concluded that "infrastructure assurance" — particularly in the areas of information and communications, banking, finance and energy — "must be a high priority for the nation in the Information Age."

"With escalating dependence on information and telecommunications," the report notes, "our infrastructures no longer enjoy the protection of oceans and military forces. They are vulnerable in new ways. We must protect them in new ways."

In a statement from the White House press office acknowledging receipt of the report, a White House spokesperson said, "the President believes it is important to act now to ensure that America's economic prosperity and national security is protected against any potential future threat."

The National Security Council staff will lead an interagency review of the report, the White House said, and will and prepare final recommendations for the President.

According to the report, which will be released in an unclassified version in the next two weeks, "the development of the computer and its astonishingly rapid improvements have ushered in the Information Age that affects almost all aspects of American commerce and society."

"Our security, economy, way of life, and perhaps even survival, are now dependent on the interrelated trio of electrical energy, communications, and computers," the report notes.

The report found that the potential for cyber threats on America's infrastructure is growing, noting that "today, the right command sent over a network to a power generating station's control computer could be just as effective as a backpack full of explosives, and the perpetrator would be harder to identify and apprehend."

The commission also noted that the rapid growth of a computer-literate

population ensures that increasing millions of people possess the skills necessary to consider such an attack.

"The wide adoption of public protocols for system interconnection and the availability of 'hacker tool' libraries make their task easier," the report says. "While the resources needed to conduct a physical attack have not changed much recently, the resources necessary to conduct a cyber attack are now commonplace. A personal computer and a simple telephone connection to an Internet service provider (ISP) anywhere in the world are enough to cause a great deal of harm."

Declaring that the United States should "attend to our critical foundations before the storm arrives, not after," the commission recommended doubling the current \$250 million spent annually on combating cyber terrorism, in the fiscal year 1999 budget, gradually increasing the total expenditure to \$1 billion by 2004.

The commission also noted that the public and private sectors both share responsibility for infrastructure protection, and requested the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Security Agency (NSA) "to provide technical skills and expertise required to identify and evaluate vulnerabilities in the associated information networks and control systems."

AMATEUR TELEVISION

Web site: www.hamtv.com

GET THE ATV BUG



See who
You are
Talking
to



ALL IN
ONE BOX
Only \$499

Total price shipped
within 24 hrs of your
call UPS surface in
cont. USA, Visa/MC

TC70-10 70CM 420-450 MHz Band ≥10 Watt ATV Transceiver

ATV is no more difficult or different than any voice mode except that you also plug in your camcorder to transmit, and your TV set to receive the picture. That's it - you're seeing as well as talking to other hams live and in color! No other radios, computers or other boxes needed to get on this live action video mode just like broadcast TV.

Show the shack, home video tapes, zoom in and describe projects, show computer graphics and programs, repeat SSTV or even Space Shuttle Video and audio if you have a TVRO. Go portable or mobile, do public service events, RACES, AREC, CAP, even transmit the local radio club meetings to those hams that can't make it.

DX is up to 90 miles snow free line of sight using 14 dBd beams. Adjustable RF output typically 2 to 14 watts p.e.p. to properly drive RF Concepts 4-110 100 Watt amp. Sensitive downconverter tunes whole 420-450 MHz band down to your TV ch 3. Check the ARRL Repeater Directory for ATV repeaters in your area or call us for info on other ATVers in your area. See the ATV section in chapter 12, pg. 46 of the ARRL Handbook.

HAMS: Call, Write or Email for our 10 page ATV Catalogue for more info - We have it all! Antennas, Amplifiers, Transmitters, Downconverters, Repeater modules, and more.

We also have wired and tested boards for the builder, R/C, Rockets and Balloon ATVers.

CALL 1-626-447-4565 M-Th 8AM - 5:30 PM PST.

P. C. ELECTRONICS

2522 S. PAXSON Lane ARCADIA CA 91007

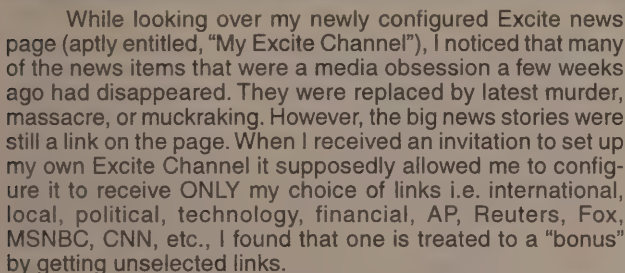
VISA, MC, UPS COD

Email: tomsmb@aol.com

24 hr FAX 1-626-447-0489

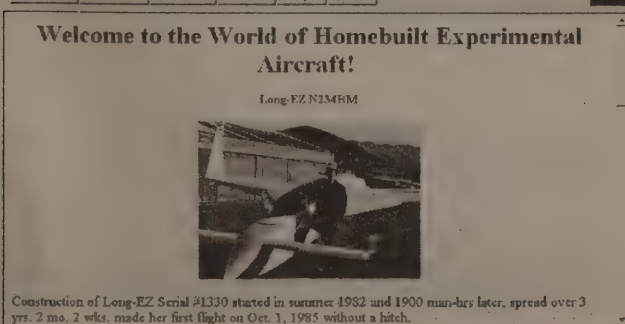
Tom (W6ORG) & MaryAnn (WB6YSS)

As many are suffering from grief overload thrust upon us by the news media what with the death of Diana and John Denver, we are also forced to deal with the sexual peccadilloes of Marv Albert and the grisly details of the JonBenet Ramsey murder.



Many of the links proved to be archived news stories or links to a related web site. The first thing that hit me on "My Excite Channel" was simply entitled.....Diana. Having been force fed just about everything I ever wanted to know about poor Diana, I was about to heave. My personal "channel" wasn't especially excited to have more. But - it triggered my curiosity about web sites dedicated to news makers. I was linked to Diana's web site which proved to make me more nauseous as it played "God Save the Queen" in the background. As soon as I found my audio control, I spiked the British National Anthem to take a quick look around. Quick it was. In addition to about 8000 other Diana links, one could probably find her bra size if one spent enough time browsing around.

Since John Denver got caught in a nasty Shanghai Breeze the previous day, I clicked on the Denver link that



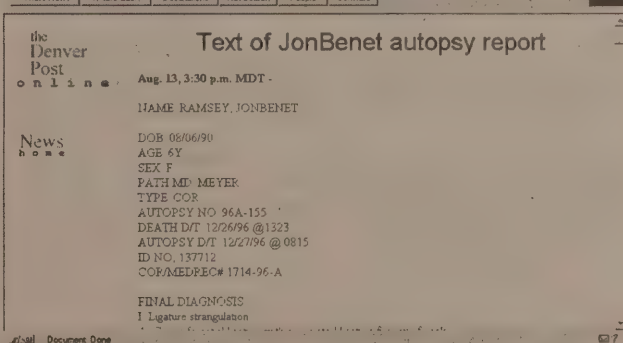
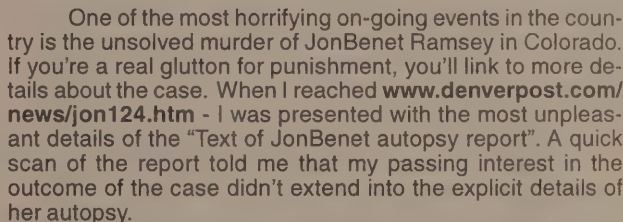
Clicking on the link to Marv Albert is another trip. If you haven't had enough of the back-biting habits of Marv Albert, there's more! Go to www.court tv.com/casefiles/marv/marv.html and you can read the less than appetizing details of Albert's DNA Test Results.



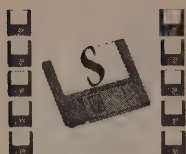
NBC sportscaster Marv Albert's case suffered a setback when a state forensic crime lab released DNA results August 11 that linked Albert to bite marks found on the woman who has accused him of sexual assault and sodomy. The Virginia Division of Forensic Science found some consistencies between the blood sample provided by Albert and DNA recovered from the bite wounds on the woman's back. Albert's blood sample was also linked to sperm samples recovered from the alleged victim's skin and underwear. The forensic report said a 1-in-2.6 billion chance that its findings came from someone other than Albert.

The 42-year-old woman, who has known Albert for 10 years, has told investigators that Albert attacked her after he had invited her to his northern Virginia hotel room on Feb. 12. She has accused Albert of throwing her onto a bed, using his back repeatedly and forcing her to perform oral sex. Albert has denied the charges, which were filed in May. Albert is scheduled to go to trial in Arlington County, Va. on Sept. 22.

The following is the report dated August 4, 1997:



My brief experiment with "News Maker" web sites confirmed why I'm reluctant to follow the links that branch off the major news source. Most of it is tabloid material and everything I *never* wanted to know about a subject. Also, rather than have my news conveniently delivered to me by any of a multitude of schemes, I'll just rely on my bookmarks - thank you.



Shareware Reviews

Ronnie Cohen, KF4GHG

WinZip by Ronnie Cohen - KF4GHG

I have never been a great fan of Windows (tm), but since I have registered WinZip, I am slowly kicking the DOS prompt habit. WinZip is a great archiving utility and has become one of the most powerful tools in my software arsenal. It is well worth the \$29.00 registration fee.

WinZip installs in a flash and adds a menu option to Window's file manager. The program is executed via this option or by double clicking on an archived file. WinZip features built-in ZIP/SFX ZIP, TAR, and gzip archive support and can utilize external ARJ, LZH/SFX LZH and ARC archiving utilities. In addition, WinZip directly interface with most virus scanners and file viewers. You should have no problems installing or using WinZip, but if you do, there is an on-line tutorial and a Wizard to help you.

WinZip's features are accessible from the program's menu or icons. Archives will be created, opened or closed with a simple click of a mouse. The latest WinZip will automatically create archives that span several disks, so you will no longer encounter errors because of disk space. WinZip has an option for creation self extracting (SFX) archives to make it easier to share files with others. The program can function as an archive's file manager to move, copy, rename or delete archives. My favorite WinZip features are Checkout and Install.

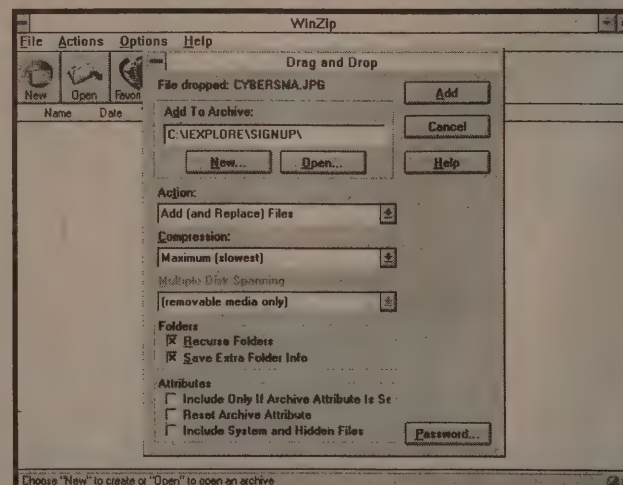
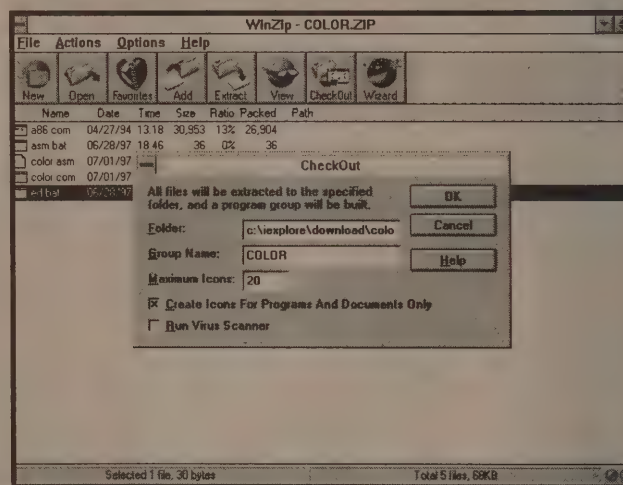
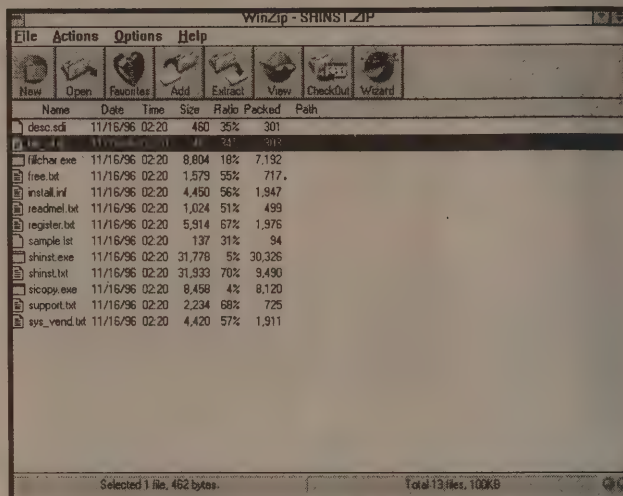
If you are working with an archived file WinZip allows you to try the archive's programs without having to worry about uninstalling. Click on the Checkout/Install icon and WinZip creates a temporary subdirectory, extracts DOS or Windows programs and creates a program group with icons to help you try the program. After you leave WinZip you are given the option to delete or leave the directory and files. The Checkout/Install feature is real good for anyone who likes to download and try software.

WinZip includes web browser support. There is an add-on program for simple downloading and opening archives from the web. This is done without trading files or browser's "Save-To-Disk", option. WinZip's add-on copies the archive directly to a permanent subdirectory so that the file will not be lost.

WinZip is the winner of the 1997 "People's Choice" Shareware Industry Award, 1997 Home Office Computing "Editor's Pick" Award, 1996 PC Week Labs "Analyst Choice" Award, 1996 PC Magazine "Best Utility" Shareware Award, 1996 Windows Magazine "Win100" Award, and the 1996 PC Computing "Best of the Internet" Award for compression. The program is a must have utility for anyone who works with file archives. Don't download from the web or any BBS until you have WinZip.

For more information about WinZip or for a FREE disk catalog and coupon, please contact

Mom 'N' Pop's Software
P.O. Box 15003-HD
Spring Hill, FL. 34609
(352) 688-9108
email: momnpop@gate.net



Is AOL planting a treacherous "cookie"?

A former programmer says

SO.

"Could this be TRUE?" cried an e-mail message from one of my readers. Since I have devoted a significant amount of space to communication's privacy issues, I read the attached copy of a message from an AOL (America Online) programmer with a knowing grin that can be interpreted to mean, "I told you so a long time ago". My grin keeps growing as issues like the clipper chip, cookies and other evil technological tricks for snagging personal information from one's computer are being exposed by influential organizations. In many cases, SKIP/CyberHam has already addressed the issue well before it makes the big time news.

At issue in the ominous message was AOL's version 4.0 software (codenamed Casablanca) due to be released early this winter. Because the software was demonstrating an inexplicable privacy invasion, the software was examined in great detail and allegedly found to place a treacherous "cookie" on the user's hard drive capable of scanning your entire hard drive and reading your password and login information. All of the acquired information is said to be stored "deep in the program code".

According to the information in the message, anyone using the new AOL software to log on to AOL is vulnerable to a secret panel of top AOL brass (sworn to secrecy) having the ability to retrieve "any piece of information that they so desire" such as "billing, download records, e-mail, directories, personal documents, programs, financial information, scanned images, etc..".

Of course, everything the anonymous programmer said was certainly possible and has been attempted by others. Obtaining highly personal information is the dream come true for a marketing division of any company. Even the experts don't know to what lengths companies will go to obtain this type of information but every suspicion of wrongdoing or clue is checked out. Of course, the government and the FBI are agonizing over how they could do the same thing while making it appear legal and not incur the wrath of the citizens. The usual excuse is that it is necessary to protect American citizens from terrorists and children from pedophiles.

The fact that AOL had a notion a few months ago to peddle user information did little to dispel my initial belief that an egregious privacy invasion was being plotted by AOL. BUT - as I read the all the personal puff surrounding the technical details of the AOL Cookies Plot, I started to become suspicious. The plot was familiar and pre-



dictable; there were three programmers who uncovered the devious plot, the three of them exposed the plot to other AOL personnel and were subsequently terminated, one of the recently unemployed individuals is undergoing treatment for cancer while another is in the throes of a divorce. Apparently the three of them can't come up with two quarters to rub together. They attempted to establish a web page on three different servers to expose details of the AOL scheme but all three were taken down by the servers. Alas, the only thing left to do was to generate a chain e-mail message or SPAM.

The message concludes with an appeal to forward the letter anywhere and everywhere; talk to private investigators, government workers; and whatever you do, "DON'T DOWNLOAD AOL 4.0 UNDER ANY CONDITION !!!" (Their capital letters).

Their inability to establish a web page didn't sit well with me either. Anyone who has ever done a search using AOL will find AOL look alikes, venomous anti-AOL sites and all manner of miscellaneous negative AOL sites - much too numerous to review.

But, because of my distrust of AOL, I called Jonah Segar of the CDT (Center for Democracy and Technology) in Washington, D.C. Mr. Segar is a recognized authority on privacy issues and is frequently consulted by the major networks to comment on privacy issues. Mr. Segar has also provided testimony during congressional hearings on the mat-

ter.

I also attempted to contact Dave Banisar of EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center) but he was in Europe dealing with the encryption controversy, in which the current administration insists that the U.S. Government hold the decryption keys to all software exported from the U.S. This promises to stifle, if not kill American developers of encryption technology.

Since CDT is closely allied with EPIC, I felt secure in the opinion of Mr. Segar. As I expected, CDT and EPIC were already aware of the allegations but so far, they have come to the same conclusion as mine; the hysterical rantings of a couple disgruntled AOL former employees. I attempted to contact someone knowledgeable at AOL but with no "apparent" success. Nobody knows nuthin'. I would really like to hear their official spin but as yet, no success.

I'm confident that when AOL unveils their new 4.0 version, EPIC, CDT and others will be taking more than just a polite glance at the operation of the browser. Meanwhile, I'm happy that SKIP readers have been alerted and are continually vigilant for possible privacy invasions. When the government, marketing firms, and others consider devious methods of extracting private and personal information from our computers, they might think twice about the howls of outrage that will surely come from an informed public.

**NOW with
B & W QuickCam* Interface!**
View "LIVE" images, capture, and send.

**Color Slow Scan
Television**

with the

Sound Blaster v1.4

Use your Sound Blaster to SEND and RECEIVE
COLOR SLOW SCAN TV

Now you can send and receive COLOR Slow Scan TV with your Sound Blaster! This is a very inexpensive way to get into Slow Scan TV. This program will send and receive all the popular modes and rates! Join those that you hear every week on 14.230 MHz with the many pictures being sent back and forth.

Pictures can be saved in .BMP format for later viewing. Help is built into the program to get you up and running. Some additional features are:

Zoom to full screen
Add your collage to the pictures that you send
Color Saver
Auto frequency tracking to 150 Hz
Built-in slide show for TV images
And SSVTV 14.230 QuickCam interface

COLOR MODES

34 & 72 ROBOT, SCOTTIE 1 & 2, MARTIN 1 & 2

BLACK & WHITE MODES

8, 12, 24, 36 second ROBOT

Requires PC computer (386 or faster) with DOS 3.3 or higher, 640K memory with hard drive, VGA monitor (capable of 640x480 - 256 colors), and a Sound Blaster compatible card

Shipping \$5.00 USA & Canada - \$10 elsewhere
Illinois Residents add \$6.25 tax

COLOR SSTV

\$99.95

(*upgrades \$15.00 plus shipping)

**VISA
MasterCard
AMEX**

Harlan Technologies

5901 Alamo St., Rushford, Illinois 61080

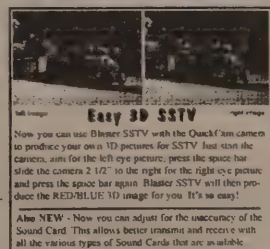
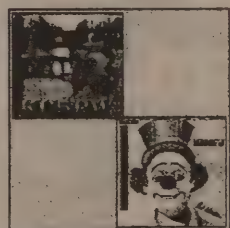
ORDERS ONLY 1-800-557-9449

(618) 398-5653 - sales (618) 398-5653 - fax

e-mail: a-harlan@erdc.com



*QuickCam is a product of
Connectix Corp.



Start Today
SSTV IS FUN!
CALL NOW

Air Force MARS - Carl Houston, Jr. (AFF2P), Editor

WELCOME. The US Air Force Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) welcomes our newest readers from Cyberham Magazine! We are glad to have you, and hope you will find something interesting in our SKIP articles. If you have any questions or information to share, please submit it to this editor.

CHIEF'S NOTES. Chief Ray Collins announced recently that the moratorium on recruiting goal is almost met, and it could possibly be lifted by the first of 1998, well ahead of schedule. The DoD Directive that we operate under is currently under revision, and will identify new operating standards and some other changes when completed.

Mr. Collins also is pleased with the new ECOM operations, and the exercises recently confirmed that we can be a valuable asset to FEMA and other agencies in assisting with communications. There are other ECOM exercises in the planning stages, and will be announced via broadcasts and other ways. These will be joint MARS exercises. All MARS services will retain their identities, but all will operate more closely as a team in all future exercises.

ARNOLD AF BASE EXERCISE. Our congratulations go out to the Arnold AFB BST Team at Tullahoma, TN for a job well done with their Air Force Commemorative exercise on Saturday, 13 September. Reports have been received from throughout the CONUS and they have all been very positive and say "well done". The event was well planned, organized and executed. This AF MARS operation was viewed by hundreds of spectators that visited the Arnold facility that day, and many were interested in learning more about it.

The team, spearheaded by Steve Thompson, AFA2ES, reports that they had check-ins from 47 states - Montana, Alaska, and South Dakota being the only US states not participating. A total of 437 stations comprised of all three services went into the log. The members assisting were: AFB2CK, Charlotte Prince; AFA2SM, Jack Hennon; AFA2OR, Lynne Hamrick; AFA2MT, Charles Jett; AFA2RH, George Stone; AFA2YG, Loral Woodham and AFA2SK, Larry Marshall. Thanks to Ed Jones, AFF4C for getting the necessary TRANSCON frequencies for the exercise. We look forward to more of these type exercises.

The Arnold team will be mailing out the certificates as quickly as possible, and if you participated, you may have yours by the time you read this. If not, it will be sent as soon as possible.

R2 CONFERENCE DOOR PRIZES. Each year, we always have many conference attendance prizes that are procured by Guice Johnson, AFF2D. This past conference was no different, and thanks go to Guice and the following companies for their donations: Buckmaster, HamCall CD ROMs; SGC, SGC-230 Coupler; RT Systems, SAM Call CD ROM Certificates; Skip/Cyberham Magazine, subscriptions and sample magazines; World Radio Magazine, subscriptions; CQ Magazine, subscriptions; 73 Magazine, subscription; Ham Radio Outlet, QRZ Callsign CD, ARRL handbook; MFJ Enterprises, Packet Beginners Guide Manuals and drink mugs.

The Virginia affiliates that planned the conference also provided a number of outstanding door prizes. The grand prize was a Transworld HF transceiver won by Vic Carson, AFF2C.

VA HOSPITAL NETWORK. Although nothing official can be divulged at this time since this is a trial operation, there is an effort underway to link the country's Veteran's Administration Hospitals by HF and VHF radio. This network, when in place, will be assisted and possibly operated to an extent by MARS affiliates, some of which are now helping to get this new program going. The VA also is appealing to hams in the VA system and in areas with hospitals to become MARS members and assist. According to Phil Salley, AFF2AL, Alabama SMD, the radio link will be a backup system to use in

an emergency, and will have FEMA capability.

This is being planned to be a joint services venture. Phil is assisting in his area of Montgomery at this time, helping the administrators get equipment into place and advising on other aspects. We will follow this and report additional information as it becomes available.

PACKET. Our packet Manager, Bud Campbell - AFF2K, is currently putting together a packet manual to assist in training and in maintaining a uniform packet operation. It is understood that the manual will include information on PACTOR and AMTOR. Upon completion, the manual will be distributed to all packet stations concerned.

VETERAN'S DAY. To all of the veterans that have served and are now serving our country, we wish you well on Veteran's Day. Thank you for your contributions to the defense of our great country. Be safe.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS. As each year goes by, we see new technology in the field of communications come on line, most it available to the public for their benefit in keeping in touch with home and office. Are we in amateur radio and MARS being forgotten? How many of today's young people know of the many hours we spent in getting messages to and from our peace-keepers thousands of miles from home, and how many trained operators from our ranks served in the various military services? We are now fifty-plus years old, and in order to keep the public and others aware that we are still "ready, willing, and able" to carry out our assigned mission, we must keep our organization in the public eye.

The RMD has asked all SMDs to appoint a public affairs representative in their state to help keep MARS in public view. But, aren't all MARS members supposed to be public affairs representatives? We can all enhance the MARS program by our favorable actions and our willingness to help our communities in time of need, and I'm sure that many of us do on a regular basis. This will keep our neighbors aware of our purpose and they will know that we are available when called upon. There will be times that the new communications "gizmos" will be inoperative due to an overloaded condition or other reasons, and radio systems operated under emergency power by trained emergency communications personnel such as us will again be pressed into service to take up the gap created by the interruption of those personal services.

WHILE DRIVING to visit Appomattox, VA from the conference location recently, I noticed a sign in front of a church that had an evidently religious message: "Workers needed - apply here. Long hours, hard work, NO pay, but GREAT rewards..." I felt that the statement could also apply to MARS. Most of us have worked like that for a long time, and our rewards were in getting morale traffic and phone patches through the system to their destination and hearing the pleased parents or spouses say "thank you, MARS!"

AIM HIGH!

DISCLAIMER: This is not an official United States Air Force release, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Air Force or the MARS.

Congratulations must be extended to U.S. Air Force MARS for its innovative idea of having a special events station set up in observance of the 50th anniversary of the creation of an independent U. S. Air Force. According to Mr. Ray Collins, Air Force MARS Chief, more than 500 stations from all three MARS services participated successfully in the 13 Sep 97 special event. Many other stations were halted by the propagation extant during the special event hours. All MARS members joined in spirit to support this operation.

Army MARS is currently planning their special event station to commemorate the founding of the MARS program in November 1925.

On 26 November 1925, the Army Amateur Radio System (AARS) was initiated by a few dedicated pioneers in the United States Army Signal Corps. This organization continued until the United States entered World War II, at which time radio amateurs were denied the use of the air waves. The activities of AARS were suspended until 1946 when, once again, AARS was allowed to go back on the air. The activities of the AARS as such were suspended, but that did not end the activities of many of its members. The members of AARS who were of appropriate ages formed the backbone of the radio communications operations for all the services during World War II. Thus the AARS operators served proudly, professionally and were ready in those early days just as today's MARS members do.

The U. S. Army recognized the great importance of reactivating the AARS in order to train vitally needed communications personnel at a relatively inexpensive direct cost to the government. Therefore, in 1946, the AARS was reactivated and functioned as such until the creation of the Military Amateur Radio System in 1948, later renamed the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). At this time, the system was divided between Army and Air Force. In early 1963, Navy MARS was added to the system. Each MARS service has unique functions in serving its sponsoring service which is why the oft suggested merger has not been done. The three MARS services also have many common functions which is why interoperability has been stressed during the past few years. A good operational balance is being reached as evidenced by the mix of volunteer members on a number of the radio nets held each day.

The exact date for the Army MARS special event has not been set as of this writing. This column will announce the date and details next month. Announcements within the MARS community will also carry the date and other details as they are finalized. All MARS members are invited to participate in this venture as they were invited to participate with the Air Force MARS special event.

For those of you who surf the Internet, Army MARS has twenty-two Web pages active on the net. The official page is maintained at Fort Huachuca, and from that page, using a click-on map, all the other pages can be reached. The address for the Fort Huachuca page is: <http://www.asc.army.mil/mars> Thousands of people have visited the pages and this source of visibility for Army MARS is most gratifying. Some of the pages are wide ranging in their information which is coordinated with the Fort Huachuca page. Other pages, while equally coordinated, stress state topics rather than the overall picture. All of these pages are well done and serve a vital service.

The page master in Utah has been tracking the location of its visitors. More than 83 nations have been represented in its readership. As he scanned the nations listed, the web page master's one concern was ... "Now if I knew where the country of San Marino was located ..." Without looking it up, do you know where the nation of San Marino is located?

Stop by the MARS pages and get the spirit of Army MARS.

One of the latest states to put together a MARS/ARES/EOC cooperative venture is VA. In information from Ben Sager/AFA2OS, Air Force MARS member, the joint MARS mission will be to assist VA ARES/RACES and the VA EOC whenever they are called into action and during drills. He credits AFF2VA (Air Force MARS State Director), AAA3VA (Army MARS State Director) and the VA EOC for allowing all the planning to come together into a cohesive and comprehensive agreement.

This information from VA was followed by further news about an actual and most successful drill following the joint civilian/MARS agreement.

Virginia Army MARS in conjunction with Air Force MARS and ARES provided digital traffic links from a simulated crash site in Roanoke to the Department of Emergency Services in Richmond, a distance of about 300 miles. This is not the first time that MARS and ARES have cooperated in VA, but this exercise was the largest involvement. The very short time frame allowed to set up the links made the operation unique and gave it a real time flavor. The existence of the Army MARS Regional Network frequencies provided the basis of linkage and it was only a matter of coordinating and setting up the crossband with the amateur frequencies. (Notice, this is the practical reason behind all those cross-band operations on Armed Forces Day.) Pactor was utilized on the MARS frequencies and packet on the Amateur frequencies. Several links were utilized and available so that variations in propagation could be accommodated. This was a very successful operation and showed clearly that a unified relationship between MARS and ARES is a natural adjunct to all emergency communications.

FEMA is still urging all of us to be aware of the el nino phenomenon. They are maintaining an information page at: <http://nic.fb4.noaa.gov> from which all of us can gain additional information.

Working together, all of us in emergency communications can share being Proud, Professional, and Ready with Army MARS.



Palm Leaf/Parchment Transcriber

NEW DELHI, INDIA, 1997 OCT 21 (NB) — By C. T. Mahabharat. A Bangalore-based firm has devised a method to transcribe ancient manuscripts written on palm leaves, parchment and other time-violated stationery. D.K. Hanumantha Rao at Sunny Graphics, a division of RAM Information Systems, has used deep sense scanners to read letters which have acquired the contours of a depressed boss due to ageing.

He and his team have written software to read the cursive forms of letters, after making allowance for the variance in boss depths.

The project has had the guidance of K.T. Pandurangi, director of Devaitha Vedanta Foundation and a Sanskrit scholar.

The research team is also attempting to write software to translate scripts in Grantha, Nadinagari, Old Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Kashmiri, Sarada and Nepali into Devanagari and Roman. The attempt will involve deep sense scanning plus character recognition software.



Internet Update

The Hidden Secrets Of Alcatraz

A new Web site, Alcatraz: The Warden Johnston Years, has debuted on the Web and promises to go beyond the movies and books to tell the untold stories of the public enemies who were incarcerated on The Rock, America's most infamous prison. The author is Joel GAZis-Sax, a snitch who betrayed the plans for a 1939 escape, and includes his own research and information about some of the most famous residents. World Wide Web: <http://www.alsirat.com/alcatraz/index.html>

Is Your PC Connected?

Intel's new Web site, the connected PC, allows users to try out new things you can do with your PC. "Where you connect to fun, friends, family and technology" is the first message users will see. Once inside, you can send an e-mail postcard, make an Internet phone call, play a multiplayer game, or create an online photo album. World Wide Web: <http://www.connectedpc.com>

FBI Files - Secret No More

Now available from the Crunch site is a growing list of FBI files and file numbers that were once secret but now available. The list is being compiled alphabetically, and the author has completed to the Fs so far, with each entry detailing the file name and its number. These can all be obtained from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act. They are mostly made up of files on activists, actors, mobsters, organizers, spies, corporations, criminals, members of Congress, politicians and others. World Wide Web: <http://www.crunch.com>

Win95 Software - DigiBand

DigiBand is an alternative to the Real Audio player software, if you want to tune into online broadcasts. The software has a RealAudio decoder built in, so will get the same stations, but adds functionality. It comes with 100 preset buttons, hundreds of channels in automatically up-gradeable channel lists, 4 scanning modes and more. You can download an evaluation version, around 4-megabytes, and upgrade it to a full version online for \$14.95. World Wide Web: <http://www.digiband.com>

JenniCam Appeals To Basic Instincts

It's not a new idea but this time it's making waves. Whereas some people put cameras in their office, to allow Web surfers to catch a glimpse of everyday life, the new "JenniCam" takes images from the bedroom of Washington's Jennifer Ringley. Why would anyone want to log into that? The publicity for the site spells it out: "Most of the time, the photos are anything but thrilling but sometimes those who log on get a more tantalizing image — Jenni changing clothes or getting out of the shower." The traffic shows it apparently, 20-million hits per day. World Wide Web: <http://www.boudoir.org>

Number One Stop For Seniors

What's at the top of the bookmarks list for America's seniors? The people behind Senior World Online want it to be their Web site. You can enter a version of the site tailored to your region and then get the latest senior-relevant news culled from across the country, health columns, travel information, local community postings and almost any other material that senior citizens find useful, enriching, or entertaining. World Wide Web: <http://www.seniorworld.com>

Londoners On The Web

There's another new soap opera on the Internet. The new weekly drama "The Londoners" traces the lives of three generations of a contemporary London family. It is currently in a trial phase, running until October 31. World Wide Web: <http://www.londoners.co.uk/soap/>

Fire Brewing

This is a Web ring of sites dedicated to the home brewer. You are never more than two clicks away from another Fire Brewing member's site, says the Webmaster, and these include pages from around the world, not just the United States. There's also home brewing information, a chatroom, recipes and more, cheers! World Wide Web: <http://www.concentric.net/~jo6chip>

CompuServe Computing Shop Opens

Looking for some new computer software or hardware? A new destination on your search is the CompuServe Computing Shop. The new Web site opened yesterday with 50,000 software titles and computer hardware products, available to anyone on the Internet. It features a "CSI Deal of the Day" special offer section and discounts for CompuServe subscribers. World Wide Web: <http://www.computingshop.com>

Online Toy Store Launches For Kids

Now kids can get their fill of toys without leaving the house. The new eToys Web site offers 1,000 products from more than 100 manufacturers and is guaranteed to keep your children happy! You can find products by age, brand, category, and development criteria. World Wide Web: <http://www.etoys.com>

Calculators Online

No matter what you need to work out, there's probably an online calculator to help you. The big problem is finding them but that's easy if you look easy. This page features links to thousands of calculators, designed for working out all types of information. New updates include calculators for file download time, your I.P. address and connection, how fast your Internet connection is and Internet traffic delays. World Wide Web: <http://www-sci.lib.uci.edu/HSG/RefCalculators.html>

Keeping An Eye On The Kremlin

This is definitely one of the coolest Web cams we have ever come across. The new Kremlin Kam brings live images of the Kremlin in Moscow to the Internet. At present the images are updated every minute or so but this should settle on once a minute soon, says the site operator. World Wide Web: <http://www.kremlinkam.com>

Encyclopedia Britannica Launches Web Guide

Just how many guides to the Internet can there be? Obviously the people at Encyclopedia Britannica think the answer is one more because they have just launched a new Internet guide. The service, currently in preview before a full launch later, includes 14 main sections and a search engine. World Wide Web: <http://www.ebig.com>

Freak Technology Update

From Denmark, this newsletter and Web site features some of the best in revolutionary inventions, discoveries and technologies. Check the site for news on new personal area networks, which use the human body to transfer information, the Panda Project to make upgrading computers easy and much more. If you like, you can subscribe to the newsletter by e-mail. World Wide Web: <http://sunsite.auc.dk/FreakTech/>

Saudi Murder Case On The Web

The case of the two British nurses accused of murdering an Australia colleague in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, can now be followed on the Web thanks to the defendants' legal counsel, the law firm of Salah Al-Hejailan (LSFH), which is handling the case pro bono. You can read about the case and a deal, made with the brother of the deceased, under which he agrees to waive the death penalty in return for \$1.2 million. World Wide Web: <http://www.law-al-hejailan.com>

Florida Online™

Central Florida's Premier Internet Provider Announces

150 hours per month!

(Additional Hours only \$0.50 per hour)

MEH

Free Personal Home Pages!

★ All 28.8,
v.34 modems

★ Text-Based Dial-In,
★ SL/IP (Graphical)
★ and PPP (Graphical)

★ Dedicated
Lines Available!

Shareware / Freeware packages are available for OS/2, Windows, Macintosh and Linux!



★ **Use Netscape to surf the World Wide Web!** Do your research, shop on-line, check out the latest news from around the world, listen to music or chat with freinds, all on the Web!



★ **Looking for Files?** Search the archives of the CICA library, log directly into IBM, Microsoft and Apple, or get all the newest files and animations, and so much more, all free!



★ **Into games and gaming?** Log into one of the many game BBS' or servers on the Internet! Choose your favorite game, and you will find there are more than just a few places to go and engage against other adventurers!

Owned and operated by KC4UFI (Jerry Russell), and KD4MIW (Sharon Russell).

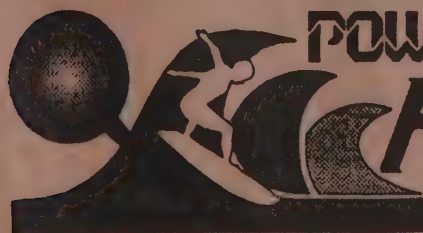
For more information, or to sign up, please call:

In Brevard
County:

635-8888

Toll-free statewide:

1-800-676-2599



POWER SURF THE INTERNET ON
Florida Online™



SAYS HE WAS IN A HURRY TO BUY TICKETS TO THE PELICAN "BIG BROWN BIRD PICNIC AT SHELTER 13 LAKE SEMINOLE PARK NOVEMBER 19TH. HE SAYS THE TICKETS ARE ONLY \$7.50 EACH.

Pelican Chapter #128

The Pelican Chapter #128 held their September meeting at Stacey's Buffet, and was opened at 12:00 noon, local time. This being the first formal meeting of the fall and winter session. There were 25 members and guests in attendance. Four special guest were in attendance, they being Marian Fox, WA3YJR, Charlie Volpe, KF4CHH and his lady, and George Sallet, K4DSB a prospective member.

The Invocation was given by Don Bice, W4PCO, our Chapter Treasurer, after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country, was led by President, Buddy Morgan, WB4OMG. After Self introductions, the Pelicans then hit upon the buffet bar, like Teddy Roosevelt took San Jaun Hill, in the famous battle of the Spanish American War.

After a delicious lunch, the meeting was reconvened, and the Picnic was discussed. Don advised that he has tickets available, and that they were being purchased in a rapid manner. Tickets will be available for \$7.50 each, the same as last year, and he would have them at the Gators, and at our next meeting on October 15th. A contract has been negotiated with Joanna Brenner of 3828 49th Street, St. Petersburg to cater the Pelican, "Big Brown Bird Picnic".

The Program for the meeting was a slide presentation given by Dr. Edwin M. Ellis, WA0FRP. Doc's presentation was extremely well received, and numerous questions were ask about the topic. Doc had spent 3 years in El Salvador, as a representative of the U.S. Government. As most know, Doc is a MD, DVM, & PhD., so he had a large variety of patients to treat. Doc also gave a 3 page pass out describing his work and history of El Salvador.

The Treasurer report was presented by Don Bice, W4PCO. Don Reports that the Pelicans have \$1,231.08 in the bank, with all bills paid.

Don Also mentioned that Lois Keys, XYL of Jim Keys, K4FCW (SK) has followed Jim in death, to the "Big D-X List in

the Sky". Jim has been a Silent Key for about 3 years, and was a Pelican Member.

Next months program has been arranged by Ken Johnson WA4TOP, Vice President, and Program Committee. Ken reports that the program will be K4LP, and will be about repeaters. Ken promises a interesting program.

The following Hamfests were discussed, and QCWA members are needed to work the table, to sell memberships, collect dues, sell Chapter memberships, and QCWA Supplies. These dates are for the ETARA (Shrine Radio Association), Tampa October 11th, 4050 Dana Shores Drive, and FGCARC Convention on November 22 & 23 at Expo Hall, State Fair Grounds. See K9BSL or K4AVH. J. Frederick Strom, K9BSL, Secretary.

Sun City Chapter #195

The meeting of the Sun City Center Chapter #195 met at Maggie's Restaurant on September 11 with 14 hams and 3 guests attending. Marvin Vergon, W8AHA was awarded the QCWA 50-year Anniversary Award by George Guler, WO0IR, Treasurer. A moment of silence was observed for Eugene Sikes, KS4SD who became a silent key on April 5, 1997. The membership voted to send a donation to the scholarship fund in his memory.

The Secretary read a letter from the Pelican Chapter asking support from Chapter 195 members in support for Alan Pickering, KJ9N who submitted his name for QCWA Director.

Jay Strom, K9BSL supplied handouts for the ETARA (Egypt Temple Amateur Radio Association hamfest on Oct. 11.

The President thanked David Brown, N3KOQ for the e-mail listing of all hams, yearly ham calendar and printout of his web site page of the ham activities in Sun City Center.

The next meeting will be on November 13, 1997 at 11:30AM at Maggie's Restaurant. Lorraine Witkowski, WA1EDR, Secretary.

Edison Chapter #196

The September meeting drew 9 members and 3 guests. The chapter is still in the formative stage and with that in mind, I would like to let everybody know that, yes indeed, guests are always welcome. We have mixed seating that enables great conversations to spark new friendships.

Continued on page 19



**Licensed at least 25 years ago ?
And licensed now ?**

**Then you should belong to the
Quarter Century Wireless Association**

**For information write :
159 E. 16th Ave., Dept S
Eugene, OR 97401-4017
<http://www.teleport.com/~qcwa>**

Florida Mid-day Traffic Net (FMTN)

Well, it finally appears that we've turned the corner and have started the up-swing of the new sun-spot cycle! We also have been very fortunate this year considering that we might just get by unscathed by hurricanes. I'm sure the "El Nino" Pacific air-flow has had a great deal to do with it.

September was notable for a few reasons. First let me congratulate Tony-WB2FGL for earning his Amateur Extra License and signing-in to Mid-day as /AE on September 7th! I would like to thank Andy-N4JAQ for starting to check-in to the Net on a fairly regular basis, along with Woody-K4SCL, Charlie-WA4EYU, Rick-K4BNE from St. Pete., and Ren-WA4JVR, just to name a few. Keep it up, because we often get Traffic for cities where we have no Net representation, so please continue to check-in when you can. Also a very special thanks to Ted-KS4FB, and Clara-KS4DW for doing such a great job covering the Daytime Region Net 5 (RN5) from Mid-day. They're like our "Tag-Team" Net Reps to the 5th Region, NOW THAT'S TOGETHERNESS! Also my thanks to Laura-WA9VND, Mort WX4H, Tony-WB2FGL, and Billy-N4UF for their hard work as Net Control Stations for FMTN.

September was also a good month for the Net. Statistics for September were 331 Stations, 270 messages and we did it in 537 minutes during 30 sessions. Great work, everybody! We're coming into the Holiday Season very soon, so October will give us a good chance to hone our Traffic Handling skills even finer than they already are. It also means that we will need to have some back-up Net Reps for the 4RN as well as the DRN5 (5th Region). Sometimes the load on the Net Reps become very heavy, and it's a good idea if we have a few extra stations available to pick-up the overflow. If you would like to participate as a back-up Representative, please check into Mid-day and let us know. We have many opportunities for you to participate in Traffic Handling through the Mid-day Net. Everyone is welcome to join with or without Traffic. You'll find the FMTN is a friendly Net, with some of the best -darn Traffic Handlers in the State! So please join us on or about 7247.00Khz. Please look down as far as 7241.00Khz because we sometimes have to move depending on the QRM. We start to gather about 1550Z for a short chat and to list Traffic, and the Net goes formal at 1600Z (12:00 noon). Join us ANY-day, EVERY-day, on MID-DAY! 73/88 Rich—KA2YZM, NET MGR.

All FL Slow CW Traffic Net (QFNS)

In spite of QRM, QRN, and Lightning storms in Sept, QFNS managed to gain QNIs and QTCs over August. A very encouraging trend and only hope it continues. With the holidays coming up and return of Northern operators we should see a lot more activity in the months to come.

I have received an answer to one of our Amateur Club letters offering their help in recruiting new NTS members. Hopefully we will receive many more.

ON THE LIGHT SIDE, I would like to share with you an unusual response to the delivery of a routine ARRL welcome message. The recipient listened attentively as I went thru my routine spiel but as I reached the Signature he blurted out, "I know you people you have really fixed me up so I can't even write a check on my bank account any more. You tell them to go to Hell, not you, them" and immediately slammed down the receiver. Wonder what I said to upset him? Chas KD4OGV CW is A1

Southeast Florida Traffic Net (SEFTN)

Ford, KB4WBY, has been producing an electronic newsletter for the net for several years, and circulating it via packet radio. Now, with some help from his Grandson, William, the newsletter is available on the Internet. You can access it

at <<http://www.geocities.com/researchtriangle/7146>> The newsletter contains information about traffic handling, current amateur events and public service opportunities, and a bit of Ford's wonderful humor.

While you are on the Internet, have a look at the October 3rd edition of the ARRL Letter at <<http://www.arrl.org>> The article "Scanner Case Against Ham Dismissed" concerns Joe, KF4HXE, one of our Net members. The story has a more or less happy ending after what must have been a great deal of anxiety — but it should be "food for thought" about how all of us might be effected by changes in the federal laws. By the time you read this we hope that SEFTN will have gone a full ten years with over a thousand monthly check-ins to the 6:00 P.M. session. It got a little close in September with summer inactivity and a 30 day month, but in the best traditions of Amateur Radio, a whole lot of hams turned out for the last few days of the month. The Motorola Clubs helped by linking the Plantation repeater to their Boynton Beach repeater on September 29th. While the number of check-ins in a given month may not be all that important in the eternal scheme of things, it was very gratifying to see that hams can always be counted to pitch in when needed. Ron, N1RT was number 1000 for September. Reliability is another important aspect of net participation. KD4HGU, KS4JK, WA9VND, and KB4WBY each had perfect attendance at the evening sessions of the month. Traffic Tips: September 16th, Kevin, WV5Z, our Section Traffic Manager, gave a recap of the traffic handlers' forum that was presented at the Melbourne Hamfest. September 23rd, Jim, KD4GR, our Net Manager, gave an interesting overview of the possible need to handle traffic in non-NTS formats for the various agencies we might serve in time of emergency. SEFTN meets daily at 1130 and 1800 local time on 146.19/79 Mhz, the Motorola Amateur Radio Club repeater. The alternate frequency is 146.31/91, the Broward Amateur Radio Club repeater. Both sessions send representatives to the Section level NTS nets. New members are always welcome, so please join us. No experience in traffic handling is necessary, and all properly licensed Hams are welcome.

September SEFTN Statistics 60 Sessions (Total/Average)

Session	Stations	Messages	Minutes
EARLY	389/13.0	66/2.2	435/14.5
LATE	1015/33.8	248/8.3	1716/57.2
TOTALS	1404/46.8	314/10.5	2151/71.7

73, Charles, WB4PAM

Continued from page 18

I recently got a letter from Ed Yoder, W3YMB who will return to Florida in October. He has been making some speaking presentations at QCWA #6 in Pittsburgh. Jan Scheuerman, KJ4N was in New Jersey for the Miss America Pageant where she operated a special event station. Harry Arnold, K9ALK will be starting his swap shop on the last Saturday in October a noon at Waterway Park in North Ft. Myers. The Ft. Myers Amateur Radio Club announced their upcoming Hamfest on January 3rd and 4th, 1998.

Several members indicated they would like to get together more often. Seating at Perkins is at a premium during our winter season so a very convenient location in Western Lehigh Acres has been suggested. Mugs and Jugs on Lee Blvd. is very easy to get to and it is huge. The menu is reasonable and the food is good. G.E. Sammons, WA4DQE has volunteered to provide transportation for those who would like to go in a car pool. I hope that an alternative location would help keep us growing as time and space can be very limited at Perkins during the winter months. I was informed by the manager they could not guarantee us our usual private space for the next several months. Tad Burik, WA8PXI, President.

Knights of the Kilocycle - Don Browne (KO4YM), Editor

Knights gain members

The Knights of the Kilocycle, amateur radio's oldest net, was organized on Christmas Day, 1929, and is now celebrating its 67th year. The Knights meet every Sunday morning at 7:30 on 3910 Kilocycles. Since 1929 there have been 547 permanent memberships awarded to amateur operators. The Knights always welcomes new members. A membership certificate is earned after five consecutive weekly check-ins to the net.

And here goes the Nightly News:

WA0FRP, Edwin "Doc" Ellis became a new Knight last month along with Frank Yates, K2ZSN. Welcome aboard! Doc is now member number 546, and Frank is number 547.

Dorothy, N4TXT of Springhill is still recuperating from a broken hip.

Marion, KC4MFT of New Port Richey and Doug N4SLS are waiting for their new crop of backyard tomatoes to come in. The backyard gardeners also have some nice figs growing out there too. Marion just celebrated her 81st birthday last month. Happy Birthday, Marion! Marion and Doug are regular checkins to the net each Sunday, and

always entertaining in their recaps of the proceeding week's activities.

Stan W4JJK, of Sebastian, besides fishing and sailing his catamaran, tells the net he has planted a pineapple out by his lakeside home. Stan, retired from the Miami Building and Zoning department is having a great time in his new home.

Alan, KJ9N told the net he'll be gone for the winter as he has church choir practice early each Sunday morning during net times.

The net recently had a lively discussion about "junk" e-mail now commonly found in internet user's mailboxes. Most of the internet users on the Knights have "juno.com" e-mail addresses and have noted the growing problem with receiving unsolicited e-mail.

Master Oscillator Bob, W4KOG of North Palm Beach, has a growing list of net member e-mail addresses for those interested in getting in touch with other members by e-mail.

The beginning of the sun spot cycle and the sun activity is slowing down a little recently, after making a record 117 on the solar flux index, and then subsequently sliding back down to

the 80s. But we should see the sunspots making for improved propagation over the next five or six years. Before long propagation will be excellent worldwide.

For those who have computers and internet access, please check out my web site at: <http://members.aol.com/browne>. I have music on most of the pages and even morse code playing in the background on the ham pages. The amateur radio pages include Florida and Southwest Florida ham info, listings of area hams in three counties, online callbooks, and the latest Knights of the Kilocycle news as well as two QCWA chapter newsletter briefs. Also check out the ham radio web links I've mentioned in writing articles for the former Cyberham magazine and the online yellow pages and white phonebook pages.

The Knights encourage new check-ins each Sunday morning to ham radio's oldest net. Please join us each Sunday at 7:30 AM, 3910 Kilocycles and let us know what's been happening in your town. We welcome all hams from anyone that can hear us. Invite your friends to listen and call in Sunday morning. See you all on Sunday morning.

ROHN TOWERS

Designed for efficiency and strength

Heavy duty construction

Special: 10ft. straight section \$59.95

9ft. top section \$69.95

Installation Available

Precision Electric Welds

Extra heavy-duty steel tubing side rails

Exclusive ROHN Zig-Zag Bracing

Double joints for high strength

Tedco
of Melbourne, Inc.

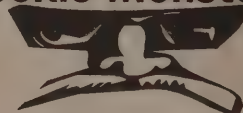
Ted: W4LR

Authorized AEA Service Center

437 S. Babcock Street
Melbourne, FL 32901

407-727-2311

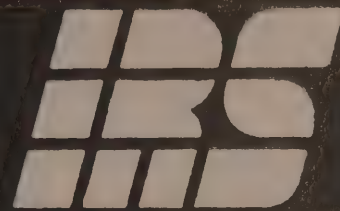
The Cookie Monster Strikes



According to a report in the Associated Press, defense attorneys subpoenaed the Ventura County Star's webpage data base seeking information for use in a homicide case. The subpoena requested information on e-mail and the profiles of individuals who participated in survey conducted by the newspaper. **According to the report, this is an Internet first.**

Ed. Note. Several months ago, SKIP Magazine warned Internet users of the dangers of allowing "cookie" exchanges. It was recommended that one install a cookie crusher or reject all cookies manually. This situation is almost exactly the hypothetical situation I described. An innocent user who demonstrated an "unusual" (as defined by lawyers or law enforcement) interest in the case could find himself entangled in the murder - perhaps, even a suspect. For this reason, among others, the Editor refuses to browse the Internet without cookie-crusher software and another program that continually purges cache, history, cookie and other files while establishing and transmitting an alias name, phony e-mail address and other garbage if requested by a web site. See the notorious, "Cookies - Why the Fuss?" - April 1997 that provided naysayers with plenty of belly laughs until a few months later when congressional hearings, privacy groups and the major media validated most of the issues advanced in the article. The article also outlined steps one could take to neutralize or reject most attempts to acquire personal information from one's personal computer.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO SYSTEMS, INC.



FACTORY DIRECT DISTRIBUTOR AUTHORIZED SALES & SERVICES

KENWOOD • ICOM •

YAESU

• AMATEUR • COMMERCIAL • MARINE • SATELLITE • CELLULAR •



- HUSTLER
- TELEX-HYGAIN
- HENRY RADIO
- MIRAGE/KLM
- RF PRODUCTS
- DIAWA
- ASTRON
- CENTURION
- MAXON
- AMPHENOL
- CES
- SITEK
- MOTOROLA
- SHAKESPEARE
- ARRL
- NYE VIKING
- SONY SECURITY
- VOCON
- ECHO STAR
- MAXCOM
- CELWAVE
- MULTIPLIER
- SANTEC
- BARKER & WILLIAMSON
- NEUTEC
- SOUTHWESTERN BELL
- RF CONCEPTS
- VAN GORDAN ENG
- COLUMBIA WIRE
- CUSHCRAFT
- AND MORE...

R1799

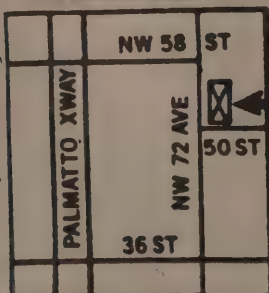


THE TOTAL COMMUNICATION STORE WHOLESALE • RETAIL • EXPORT



INTERNATIONAL RADIO SYSTEMS, INC.

HABLAMOS ESPANOL
SU DISTRIBUIDOR
PARA CENTRO, SUR AMERICA
Y EL CARIBE



5001 N.W. 72ND AVE MIAMI, FLORIDA 33166

(305) 594-4313

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:30 Sat. 9:30-2:30 FAX: (305) 477-4449

FCC issues new Form 610

The FCC has announced that as of January 1, 1998, Amateur Radio applicants may only submit FCC Forms 610, 610 A and 610B that carry an edition date of September 1997. After the first of the new year, previous editions of Form 610 will not be accepted for filing by the FCC or by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs). Amateurs may begin using the new Form 610s now.

The major change on the new form is a certification that says the applicant has "read and will comply with Section 97.13(c) of the Commission's Rules" regarding RF radiation safety and the amateur service section of OST/OET Bulletin No 65, Evaluating Compliance with FCC-Specified Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields.

But, Amateur Radio Supplement B of Bulletin 65, which has additional information on how to conduct a routine RF safety evaluation and explains other aspects of RF safety, is still in the draft stages and not yet available to the ham radio community. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, said it's essential that the FCC make Supplement B available in time for hams to complete their evaluations to meet the deadlines in the rules.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, who's been involved in reviewing the draft supplement, said he expects the FCC to release it sometime in November. "Above all, it is important that the required station evaluation be as easy as possible for hams," he said. "The FCC has pretty much met that goal. Additionally, most hams, by virtue of their power levels, will not need to do an evaluation at all."

Section 97.13(c) says that before you transmit "from any place where the operation of the station could cause human exposure to RF electromagnetic field levels in excess of those allowed," you have to perform a routine RF environmental evaluation if your transmitter PEP exceeds these limits: 160-40 meters, 500 W; 30 meters, 425 W; 20 meters, 225 W; 17 meters, 125 W; 15 meters, 100 W; 12 meters, 75 W; 10 meters, 50 W; VHF (all bands), 50 W; 70 cm, 70 W; 33 cm 150 W; 23 cm, 200 W, 13 cm 250 W, SHF/EHF (all bands) 250 W. If the routine environmental evaluation indicates that the RF electromagnetic fields could exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits, you must take action to prevent human exposure.

The new Forms 610 may be obtained from the FCC's Web site via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>, at <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/> or by fax at 202-418-0177 (request index, or for Form 610 use form code 000610, for Form 610A use form code 006101, for Form 610B use form code 006102). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept FCC forms orders at 800-418-3676.

ARRL VEs and VE teams will be able to obtain a supply of the new Forms 610 in late November.

Individual amateurs may obtain a copy of the new Form 610 by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111. Include 32 cents postage for each Form 610 requested.

FCC announces electronic renewal Form 900

Hams now can renew their licenses on line. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one form. Form 900, Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations, is an interim measure to permit all WTB licensees, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

This form is only for renewals, not for license modifica-

tions. You can only enter changes (eg, name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window (within 120 days of expiration). You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically. No Form 900 paper applications will be accepted. When filing Form 900, you will be required to enter a Social Security Number for a taxpayer ID number.

Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html> (click on Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications to access the Form 900). Click on any item number for filing instructions. Once you have filed the form, clicking on Electronic Renewal Query lets you view or print the information submitted.

Once you have successfully submitted Form 900, it is important to click on the Continue button to obtain the fee information pertaining to your filing. The screen will prompt you with a Fee Remittance Advice, Form 159. The form will indicate that there is no charge to renew an Amateur Radio license (except for vanity call sign holders, who won't have to renew for several more years yet).

Form 900 updates will be batch processed at night. They are not instantaneous.

Send comments about the FCC Form 900 to [sreed\(at\)fcc.gov](mailto:sreed(at)fcc.gov). For technical assistance, call the FCC Technical Support Group at 202-414-1250. Other general information may be obtained from the FCC's National Call Center at 888-225-5322 (CALL-FCC).

-ARRL Letter

ATVQ now published by Harlan Technologies

As of October 17, 1997, **ATVQ** has a new publisher, Harlan Technologies! "We have a little catching up to do, and the next issue (Summer 97) will be out about November 1" says Gene Harlan former publisher of **CyberHam Magazine** now merged with **SKIP**. "This will be followed by the fall issue around December 1. After that we expect to be back on schedule and it will be our goal to stay on schedule!"

ATVQ will be looking for new authors. If interested in writing about the following topics, please send email to let us know.

Amateur Television Quarterly, the publication for the video aspects of ham radio, brings you the latest in: ATV ACTIVITY ON EARTH AND SPACE, PUBLIC SERVICE ATV ACTIVITY, SLOW SCAN TELEVISION, BUILD-IT PROJECTS, FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS OF ATV ACTIVITIES, NEWS, ARTICLES AND FEATURES, INSIGHTS FROM THE EXPERTS, NEW PRODUCT REVIEWS, TECHNICAL INFO, AND LOTS MORE! Don't miss the action, SUBSCRIBE NOW!

RATES

(Effective 10-17-1997 - Subject to change without notice)

USA \$18.00 / Year

CANADA \$20.00 / Year

ELSEWHERE \$26.00 / Year (All in US \$)

Amateur Television Quarterly

published by Harlan Technologies

5931 Alma Dr., Rockford, IL 61108

tel (815) 398-2683 fax (815) 398-2688

orders (800) 557-9469

Internet: <http://www.cris.com/~Gharlan>

email: atvq@aol.com



HAMFEST



Sarasota Does it Again!
FREE!
2000 Tailgate Spaces
Tailgate Vendors park and sell for **FREE**

Sarasota Amateur Radio Association

Proudly Presents the 19th Annual

The Sarasota Hamfest + a few computers Show

Sat. Feb 21
9am - 5pm

Robarts Arena
(Sarasota Fairgrounds)
4 Mi. W. of I 75 exit 39
Fruitville Rd.

Sun. Feb 22
9am - 3pm

For more Information, visit the
home page on the internet
www.saraclub.org/show.html

200 Tables available
@ \$20.00 ea. incl elec.



Early Ticket Purchase Saves You Bucks!

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Amt: _____ Tix: _____

Make Checks payable to:
Sarasota Hamfest Inc.
PO Box 3182 Sarasota, FL 34230

Early Tickets: \$5.00
\$7.00 at the door
Early purchase ends 02/15/98

Quality
Catered food
on premises

Free Parking

RV Hookups
\$25.00

Call Dave,
AE4MR
for Table info
(941) 923 3967

FCC Exams
9-11 Sat.
Door Prizes
Hourly Prizes
Special Seminars
Guest Speakers
Talk-in 146.31/91
also 444.925
linked



ALUMA

TOWER COMPANY, INC.

SERVING AMATEUR RADIO FOR 20 YEARS

1639 Old Dixie Highway

P.O. Box 2806 FS

Vero Beach, FL 32961-2806

(561) 567-3423 • Fax (561) 567-3432

WEESSSS

This space
FOR
RENT



MAKE
MAY
MAY



ASTRO TOO

Surplus/Electronics Equipment

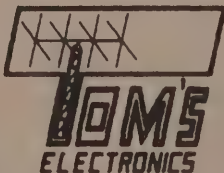
**Electronic Components
Computer Supplies**

2854 Sarno Road
Melbourne, FL 32935

(407) 253-3371

Owner - Tom Larrivee
WA4DKG

Tech - Brian
FCC - PG-7T-8408
KE4DOL



Sales - Mike
KE4DOK

164 West First Ave.
Pleasant, FL 32180

Tech 904-749-2042
FAX 904-749-3147

800-785-6266 Sales/Service

"OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE"

"KNOWN FOR SERVICE"

EVELYN D. GAUZENS

W4WYR

Broker/Associate

FUTRELL COMPANY, INC. REALTORS

Office: (305) 233-4444

Dig. Beeper: 880-0835

Eves.: 642-4139

INTERNATIONAL RADIO AND COMPUTER, INC.
Your Number One Radio Repair Center for Florida and the USA!!



OUR 16TH YEAR

IRCI SUPPORTS YOU AND YOUR RADIO THROUGH:

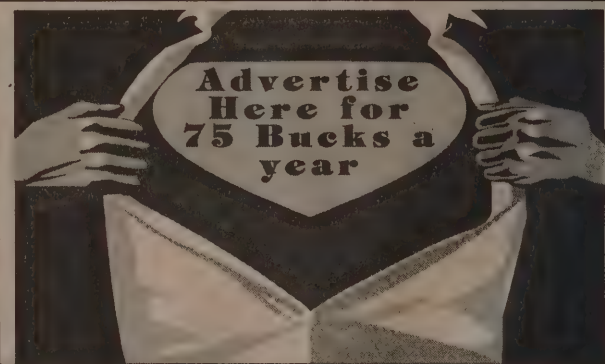
1. Upgrade Kits for Icom, Kenwood & Yaesu radios.
2. Authorized Kenwood Warranty Service Center.
3. IRCI User Kenwood, Icom & Fox Tango Back Issue Newsletters.
4. IRCI User Radio Supplements for Kenwood & Icom.
5. IRCI and Fox Tango 8 and 10 pole crystal filters.
6. Authorized Icom Dealer.



WE REPAIR
BROKEN RADIOS!!!!

3804 South U.S. #1, Fort Pierce, FL 34982

[407] 489-0956 FAX # [407] 464-6386



FRANK M. BUTLER, W4RH

DIRECTOR, SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

323 ELLIOTT ROAD, SE
FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548
PHONE: (904) 244-5425
MCI MAIL: 311-3659

QSTz



NEMAL ELECTRONICS INT'L, INC.

12240 N.E. 14th Ave.
N. Miami, FL 33161
Tel: 305 899-0900
Fax: 305 895-8178

Internet: <http://www.nemal.com>
E-mail: info@nemal.com
3000 Interconnect products in stock

FLORIDA SKIP SPECIALTIES

MAPS: 144, 220, 440 AND Packet - .25 ea.
FCC: 610 & 610B Forms - FREE
FLA: Applications for Amateur Radio License Plate - FREE
Ham Shack Calendars - FREE

(Send request & SASE for Maps, Forms, Applications)

BOOKLETS: FL TFC Routing Guide \$3.00 + 2.00 P/H

Dear Mabel Award: \$3.00 to cover P/H

Andy Clark, W4IYT

P.O. Box 501 - Miami Springs, FL 33266

Repeater Maps

The **FAMOUS** Florida Skip 2-meter
Repeater Maps are available.

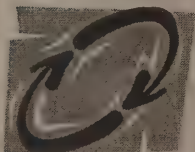
The larger, easier to read map is printed in two colors.

Send \$1.00 and SASE to:

SKIP Magazine

672 Indian River Dr.
Melbourne FL 32935

Antenna rotators & Control Boxes REPAIRED



\$30.00 plus parts/shipping
or purchased

Conrad Kibler

10102 Cliff Circle - Tampa, FL 33612

Telephone - 813-933-2850

U-LIFT

By JB

6708 CR 651

Bushnell, FL 33513

352-793-4690

WB4MOX

WB4MOY

JOHN

BEV.

DON'T CLIMB YOUR TOWER, USE A U-LIFT LIKE WE DO,
IT'S SO EASY.



C.G.A. ENTERPRISES

DEALER FOR:

ALUMA TOWER

NEW
&

ALSO AVAILABLE:

USED

ANTENNAS, ROTORS, COAX, CONNECTORS, RADIOS,
POWER SUPPLIES, AMPLIFIERS, BATTERIES.

TOLL FREE: 888-510-7373

PHONE: 813-862-3325

FAX: 813-862-4767

E-MAIL: cga@a-mail.citicom.com

G.M. ELECTRONICS SERVICE

**HAM RADIO
SERVICE AND REPAIR
ALL MAKES**

* Specialized Design Engineering/Construction

* Also Marine Electronics

7130 North Main Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32208

Guy Mallard, W6IYK
(904) 764-0042

K4VSC Mobile Special

144/440 Mast Mag Mnt W/9.5 ft nipple
cable, 5 ft nipple extender W/splice, PL-259
& BNC connectors (SMA avail)

\$35.00 PP

(Florida res add 6.5% Tax)

E.B.V.

8770 Sunset Dr., Suite 256
Miami, FL 33173

Ink Refill Kits
For All Ink Printers

Toner For Lasers
And Copiers



Affordable Printer Accessories

SCOTT & GAIL CALHOUN
12019 Uracus St.
Orlando, FL 32837

(407) 855-3372
(407) 826-4154
Fax (407) 888-3324

Roger Radio

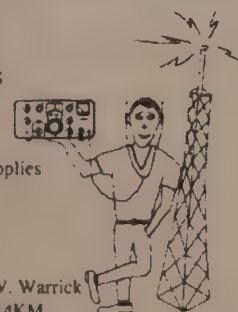
Communication Electronics

- Radio Repair and Restorations
- Alignments and Modifications
- All Makes: HF, VHF, Amps, Power Supplies
- Installations

Preserving the charm of Amateur Radio

Kenwood Specialist
954-961-2363

Roger W. Warrick
KK4KM



Statistics

SFL BBS Totals - Sept, 1997

Compiled by Bill Britton, KB4VOL

BBS	NTS	PERS	BUL	TOT MSGS
AE4IG	13	375	3781	4169
K0ZXF	-NO REPORT-			
K4VJI	11	116	5068	5195 (GATEWAY)
KB4GBS	3	299	3852	4154
KB4VOL	OFF THE AIR - LIGHTNING DAMAGE			
KB4WUA	-NO REPORT-			
KC4YEK	-NO REPORT-			
KD4GR	-NO REPORT-			
KE2IX	-NO REPORT-			
KF4BPX	1	257	2811	3069
KF4OJ	-NO REPORT-			
KO4KS	3	299	3852	4154
KP4EDL	0	269	2467	2736
N4AWX	-NO REPORT-			
N4HHP	23	336	2336	2695
N4XEO	34	1411	5557	7002
W4DPH	38	1575	6559	8172 (GATEWAY)
W4MIN	11	304	5639	5954
W4MLB	-NO REPORT-			
W4MWP	-NO REPORT-			
WA2LKI	-NO REPORT-			
WB2WPA	1	66	3617	3684
WB4MOZ	34	281	2037	2352
WB4TEM	-NO REPORT-			
WD8IBY	-NO REPORT-			

NTS TOTAL: 172

I NEED YOUR HELP! As you know, the KB4VOL BBS was hit by lightning causing extensive damage. It will still be weeks before I can get it back on the air. In the meantime, PLEASE continue to send the monthly BBS STATS reports, as well as changes to any of the monthly lists, on the 1st of each month. By E-Mail, send to kb4vol@gate.net By packet, send to KB4VOL @ N4XEO, who forwards them to me.

As you can see by the reports above, we missed many stations. There was also practically nothing received to update the monthly lists. Any list with new information will go out this month. The rest won't. If you did send an update for one of the lists, and it's not there, I didn't get it. Please send it again. Hopefully, things will be back to normal soon. (Whatever NORMAL is, around here...)

73... Bill, KB4VOL @ N4XEO, ARRL Packet Manager South Florida. E-MAIL: kb4vol@gate.net

VISIT OUR WEB SITE! LOTS OF HAM INFO AND THE MONTHLY LISTS!

<http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol>

Top Twenty Traffickers - Oct. 1997

by AA4HT & WX4H

Station	Total	Station	Total
1 WX4H	840	11 KC4ZHF	230
2 WA9VND	700	12 NR2F	222
3 W3VR	685	13 W7AMM	209
4 W3CUL	588	14 WB4PAM	155
5 KA2YZM	508	15 KD4HGU	152
6 K4SCL	458	16 WA4PUP	148
7 KE4DNO	451	17 KD4GR	139
8 AB4XK	317	18 KE4OAV	138
9 KA4FZI	253	19 AA4HT	138
10 KB4WBY	236	20 W4DL	133

Silent Keys

We regret to report the passing of the following Amateur Radio Operators. Please notify SKIP of silent keys in your area.

WB4ARS - Conrad William Kibler, Tampa
 KE4PO - James B. (Mike) Heinicke, Harbor Oaks
 NN2F - Walter D. Martila, Palm Bay
 W2ZNE - E.F. Merritt Jr., Tampa
 WB4BMB - Joseph H. Williams, Jacksonville
 KA4FKJ - J.E. Summey, Fort Walton Beach
 WA4LMA - Hartwell W. Parker, Palmetto Point

Spy on the Kremlin

TOKYO, JAPAN, 1997 OCT 22 (NB) — By Martyn Williams. James Bond would love it. Two Russian companies have got together to send almost-live images of the Kremlin in Moscow onto the World Wide Web. A new camera, just across the Moscow River, sends new images, updated once a minute, onto the Internet for everyone to enjoy.

The images are available 24 hours a day, and even provide something to see at night because of the good lighting in the area. "We're very proud to sponsor KremlinKam," said Nikolai Simichev, Chairman of Multi-Page and a representative of Mosenergo, the two companies responsible for the service.

"From our headquarters complex, located just across the Moscow River from the Kremlin, we've long enjoyed a view of our beautiful and historic structures, like the Spasskaya Tower and Clock, that attract tourists from all over," he continued in the statement.

So how's it all done? The group purchased an Active Imaging My-NET camera, enclosed in an environmental case to protect it, and connected it to a server in their offices that sends the images online. "The whole project cost us less than US\$15,000," said Charles Boensch, Multi-Page general director. "I think Mosenergo has made a nice contribution to the Internet's education-, travel-, weather- and general interest-minded surfers, while promoting Moscow's rich history."

Readers can find the KremlinKam online at <http://www.kremlinkam.com>. The page also includes a complete archive of images from any minute from the previous 24 hours.

6th Annual - TARA RTTY SPRINT

*** Please note NEW Sprint weekend!***

1.) Object: Contact and exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible using RTTY only. Any station may work any other station.

2.) Contest Period: December 6, 1997 (Saturday) From: 18:00 UTC until 02:00 UTC Dec 7.

3.) Modes: RTTY only!

4.) Bands: All amateur bands 3.5-30 MHz (excluding 10,18 and 24MHz).

5.) Entry Categories:

(A) Single Operator, multiband - One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets (operating arrangements involving assistance through DX-alerting nets, etc.) is not permitted. Single operator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal at any given time.

1) less than 150 W output

2) 150 W output or more

(B) Multi operator, single transmitter only- More than one person operates, checks for duplicates, keeps the log, etc. Once the station has begun operation on a given band, it must remain on that band for at least 10 minutes; listening time counts as operating time. Multioperator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal at any given time.

6.) Exchange:

US: signal report and state.

Canada: Signal report and province.

DX: Signal report and serial number starting with 001.

Both stations must receive and acknowledge the complete exchange for the contact to count.

7.) Scoring:

(A) QSO Points: Count one point for each completed QSO (anyone can work anyone). A station may be worked once per band for QSO credit (but not for additional multipliers).

(B) Multiplier: Count only once (not once per band), each US state (except KH6 and KL7), each VE province (plus VE8 and VY1) and each DXCC countries. KH6 and KL7 count only as separate DXCC countries. The US and Canada do not count as DXCC countries.

8) Miscellaneous: (A) The use of non-Amateur Radio means of communication (eg, telephone) for the purpose of soliciting a contact (or contacts) during the contest period is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of this announcement.

9) Reporting:

(A) Entries must be postmarked no later than 41 days after the end of the contest. January 17, 1998. Any entry making more than 200 total QSO's must submit duplicate check sheets (an alphabetical listing of stations worked). No late entries can be accepted. Use ARRL RTTY Roundup forms, a reasonable facsimile or submit entry on diskette or electronically.

Send entries to:

William J. Eddy NY2U

2404 - 22nd Street,

Troy, New York 12180-1901 U.S.A.

or Via e-mail: MRBILL1953@AOL.COM

Or try our "NEW" TARA RTTY WEB PAGE: <http://generators.com/tara/>

(B) You may submit your contest entry on diskette in lieu of paper logs. The floppy diskette must be IBM-compatible, MS-DOS formatted, 3-1/2 or 5-1/4 inch. The log information must be in an ASCII file, following the ARRL Suggested Standard File Format, and contain all log exchange information (band, mode, date, on and off times, time in UTC,

call sign of station worked, exchanged sent, exchange received, multipliers [marked the first time worked] and QSO points). One entry per diskette. An official summary sheet or reasonable facsimile with a signed contest participation disclaimer is required with all entries. Also you may file these electronically at:

<http://generators.com/tara/>

MRBILL1953@AOL.COM

10) Awards:

Distinctive certificates will be awarded to: Top high-power and low power single-operator and multioperator scorers in US/Canadian W/VE0; Top high-power and low-power single operator and multioperator scorers in each DXCC country (other than W/VE0); each Novice and Technician entrant.

11) Conditions of Entry:

Each entrant agrees to be bound by the provisions as well as the intent of this announcement and the regulations of his/her licensing authority.

12) Disqualifications:

For excess duplicate contacts and call sign or exchange errors. Reminder: Tune to 14.088 and 7.088 after contest for a round table of RTTY testers comparing scores.

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

6th Annual RTTY Sprint

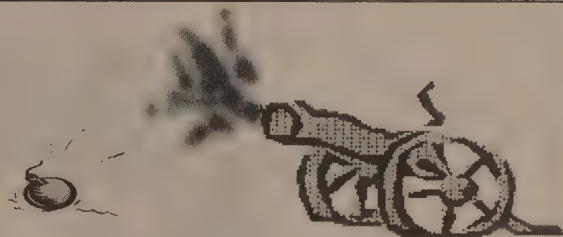
Contest Period: December 6, 1997 at 18:00 UTC until 02:00 UTC

Information available at: <http://generators.com/tara/>

73 de NY2U, Bill Eddy

President TARA

Troy Amateur Radio Association, Inc - N2TY



Sputnik model launch delayed

It now appears that the launch of a working model Sputnik 1 from the Russian Mir space station won't happen until October 18-20, and perhaps later. According to AMSAT News Service, the model Sputnik, assembled by students in Russia and equipped with a 2-meter transmitter by students in France, was to be aboard the Progress rocket that docked aboard Mir this week. Earlier information from several sources—including the sponsors—had indicated the model satellite would be launched from Mir October 4, the 40th anniversary of the original Sputnik 1 satellite.

The Sputnik-40, as it's called, reportedly will be hand-released by the Mir crew during a space walk. Latest information indicates the mini-satellite will transmit a "beep-beep" signal on 145.800 MHz (FM) from its 200-mW onboard transmitter. The batteries are expected to last a month or two.

For additional details and photos see <http://www.oceanes.fr/~fr5fc/spoutnik.html>.

-ARRL Letter

SKYSCAN

LIGHTNING DETECTORS

SOLD BY:

MEKTRON

1750 WILD ACRES ROAD
LARGO, FLORIDA 33771

Phone & Fax: 813/531-0152

e-mail: mektron@juno.com

LAST YEAR'S

Introductory price
WAS \$229.95

Now only

\$139.95 + S & H

AC adaptor \$19.95

Wall mount \$5.95



Ask for:

George

K4ENW

STAR SPEAKERS

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE

1750 Wild acres road; Largo, FL 33771

Phone & FAX 813/531-0152

E-mail : mektron@juno.com

Oldest loudspeaker remanufacturing business
in the County specializing in MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
Amplification. (Established 1977)

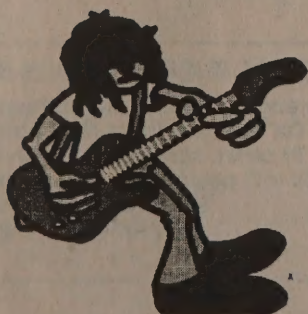
Entire speaker shop ready to go!

CONES, VOICE COILS, SPIDERS, RINGS, DUST CAPS
SHIM STOCK, FOAM SUROUNDS (8, 10, 12 & 15")
ADHESIVES, THINNERS SPECIAL Electrovoice forms,
Over 100 rebuildable frame (baskets)

NEW O.E.M. replacement speakers, FENDER,
AMPEG, KUSTOM, SUNN, ACOUSTIC, PEAVEY

\$7.5K Inventory. Asking \$5K (OBO) \$3K down &
we'll carry the balance for 24 months.

Ask for George or Meta





Upcoming Shows in Florida - Nov., 1997

Compiled by
Bill Britton, KB4VOL

- Nov 1 Sorrento Lake ARA (Eustis)
East Lake C of C Bldg
SR 437 (Plymouth-Sorrento Rd)
Talk-in on 147.255
INFO: Chuck, KE4EXM (352) 669-2075
- Nov 8 Port St Lucie St Andrew's Lutheran Church
Prima Vista Blvd.
Talk-in on 146.955
INFO: Frank, N4FBX (561) 336-3069
- Nov 8 Titusville Fox Lake Park
Harrison St west to the park
Talk-in on 146.910/146.970
INFO: Clyde, K4EOS (407) 267-9375
- Nov 22/23 Tampa Florida Expo Park
I-4 & US 301
Talk-in on 147.165
INFO: Charlotte WB4PEL (813) 733-6937
- Dec 6 Okeechobee Agriculture Center Bldg
on US 441 1.5 mi north of SR 70
Talk-in on 147.195
INFO: Al, AD4RZ (941) 467-0516
- Dec 6 Ocala Booster Stadium
N 36th Ave 1 mile N of SR 40
Talk-in on 146.970
INFO: Mario, N4TSV (352) 245-9514
- Dec 13 Lake City FL Sports Hall of Fame
I-75 exit 82 to US 90 west
Talk-in on 145.490
INFO: Colen, WA5RKR (904) 755-7969

1998

- Jan 10/11 Fort Myers Southwest Florida Hamfest
at Cape Coral American Legion
on 47th Terrace, Cape Coral
Talk-in on 147.345
INFO: Jim, KQ4OR (941) 997-6423
- Jan 17 Crystal River Crystal River Armory
Talk-in on 146.955
INFO: Bill, KO4ZA (904) 382-5755

- Jan 18 Pinellas Park Benefit Boy's & Girl's Club
7790 61st St North
Talk-in on 147.060
INFO: Mike, KC4TEX (813) 823-4251
- Jan 24 Arcadia Desoto County Fairgrounds
US 17, 1/2 mi south of SR 70
Talk-in on 147.075
INFO: Doug, KN4YT (941) 494-5070
- Feb 7/8 Miami Dade County Expo Center
SW 112th Ave & Coral Way
Talk-in on 146.760 or 146.925
INFO: Evelyn, W4WYR (305) 642-4139
- Feb 7 Pensacola Bayfront Municipality Auditorium
Talk-in on 146.760 & 444.925
INFO: Bill, WA4YRN (904) 476-8537
- Feb 14/15 Orlando Central Florida Fairgrounds
4300 W. Colonial Way
Talk-in on 146.760
INFO: Ken, KD4JQR (407) 961-2465
- Feb 21/22 Sarasota Roberts Sports Arena
3000 Fruitville Rd.
Talk-in on 146.919 & 444.925
INFO: Dave, AE4MR (941) 923-3967
- Feb 21 Brooksville VFW Hall in Spring Hill
Talk-in on 146.715
INFO: Lee, WA3YMV (352) 799-1638
- Apr 3 Fanning Springs FREE! At the
Suwannee River Fairgrounds
Talk-in on 146.700
INFO: Jim or Mary (352) 498-2317

HELP AVOID CONFLICTS - GET YOUR DATES IN
EARLY!

PLEASE SENT CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND
WHO TO CALL FOR INFO!

Packet Address: KB4VOL @ N4XEO Army MARS Call:
AAT4RV

THE KB4VOL BBS WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED BY
LIGHTNING & IS OFF THE AIR

NOTE TEMPORARY CHANGE IN PACKET ADDRESS

Mail: Bill Britton, KB4VOL 8703 S.E. Jardin St.

Hobe Sound, FL 33455

E-Mail: kb4vol@gate.net

VISIT OUR FLORIDA HAM WEB SITE! LOTS OF
LINKS & THE MONTHLY LISTS!

* <http://pages.prodigy.com/kb4vol> *

Eli's Amateur Radio

ICOM • YAESU • SGC • ALINCO

ALL MAJOR BRANDS NEW & USED * RADIOS * RADIOS *
ANTENNAS * ACCESSORIES * BOOKS

OPEN 7 DAYS - LOWEST DISCOUNT PRICES

CREDIT CARDS WELCOMED * SE HABLA ESPANOL * WE EXPORT

BROWARD 1-800-780-0103 DADE
(954) FAX: 305-944-3383 (305)

525-0103 1/2 Block South of Route 84 944-3383

2513 SOUTHWEST 9th AVENUE, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL

THE COMMUNICATORS HANDBOOK

A reference guide for the professional engineer or
radio DX'er with a list of FREE catalogs and MUCH
MORE!! To order, send \$9.98 US Check/M.O., Canada
\$13.50 int'l postal M.O. to S. Crawford, P.O.B. 83,
Riverdale, NY 10463.
Fast FREE Shipping.

CLASSIFIED

FREE!!! HAM and IBM Shareware disk catalog. High quality, newer, virus free programs. Specify disk size. MOM 'N' POP'S SOFTWARE, PO Box 15003-HD, Springhill, FL 34609-0111. 1-352-688-9108, momnpop@gate.net

FOR SALE - 2 meter HTX202 Radio Shack, like new - \$200.00. Mike Smith (W4NGC), Ph: 1-800-327-2048

FOR SALE - Heathkit SB200 Linear - \$250.00. Astron 20 amp supply - \$70.00. Harry Evans (W4OFI) Ph: 954-721-2349.



THANKSGIVING MY ROYAL TAILFEATHER!!!

Contacting SKIP

Articles, advertising copy, subscriptions, classified ads, correspondence or press releases can be forwarded as follows:



•Mail:
SKIP Magazine
672 Indian River Drive
Melbourne, FL 32935



•E-mail:
gwentz@digital.net



•Voice Phone:
800-421-3279
242-5993 (Local)



•FAX:
800-421-3279 (Auto detects
or you can enter ## to get fax
machine)

**PLEASE NOTIFY SKIP OF ADDRESS
CHANGES OR "TEMPORARILY
AWAYS"!!** A simple phone call will do it
and it costs you nothing.

**Deadline for material is 10th of month
PREVIOUS to month of publication.**

CLASSIFIED RATES: 10 cents/word - \$3.00 minimum
for subscribers. All commercial and others, 15 cents/
word - \$3.50 minimum. Deadline 10th month. Please
print legibly. No ads by phone.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM



SKIP

672 Indian River Dr.
Melbourne, FL
32935

- ☐ New
☐ Renewal
☐ Change Information

- ☐ One Year \$12.00*
☐ Two Years \$23.00*
☐ Three Years \$34.00*

*Foreign subscriptions add \$12.00/
year.

Name _____

Callsign _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode _____



Mike's Electronics

1001NW 52 STREET
FT LAUDERDALE FL 33309
(954)491-7110 voice
(954)491-7011 fax
(800)427-3066 ORDER LINE

ICT7A

DUAL BAND SINGLE
DISPLAY, 5 WATTS,
TONE, TONE SQ,
TONE SCAN, BUILT-IN
HELP

\$273

PRICED RIGHT FOR
YOU

IC-2710

DUALBAND, 45/35
WATTS
DUAL
DISPLAY,
CROSS
BAND,
V/V/U/V/U
REMOVABLE
HEAD

\$499

BUY IT
YOU'LL LIKE
IT

IC-756

LARGE LCD 5"x5" DISPLAY W/SPECTRUM SCOPE, DSP,
LOADS OF IC-781 FEATURES AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE

\$1999

MUST OWN TO APPRECIATE THIS DYN-O-MITE VALUE

IC-2000H

2 METER 50W WATT MOBILE

\$256

BEST QUALITY FOR THE MONEY

ICOM

IC-W32AT

DUALBAND
HT-5WATTS-V/V/U/V/U/V
-COMPACT
SIZE
T/T/SQ/T.SCAN-BACK-LIT
KEYPAD
\$329
NEWER
LOWER
PRICE

IC-T2A

2 METER HT 5WATTS
T.T.SQ/T SCAN, 10
WEATHER, 40 MEMS

\$165

UNBELIEVABLE



THANKSGIVING



**SKIP
CyberHam**

Amateur Radio - Computers - Communications - Internet

PLEASE NOTIFY
The SKIP
IF YOU ARE
CHANGING YOUR
ADDRESS

Your undelivered
magazines are very costly



SKIP

672 Indian River Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32935

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ADDRESS
N'MAIL

